

LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
488,000

No 63,348

Young set to break Big Six beer monopoly

Brewers may have to give up 22,000 tied houses

- Britain's biggest brewery groups are set to be forced to put 22,000 tied public houses up for sale
- The Government hopes that an important shake-up in the industry will lower the price of a pint of beer
- The Monopolies and Mergers Commission wants to limit each brewery to 2,000 tied public houses
- The Brewers' Society condemned the moves which it said could jeopardize 33,000 tenanted pubs

By Sheila Gunn and Derek Harris

The Government signalled its determination yesterday to break brewers' tied-house monopolies.

Although a final decision on the £9 billion-a-year industry is not expected for several months, Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said he was "minded to implement" the recommendations of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

After a two-and-a-half-year inquiry, the commission has strongly criticized the tied-house system operated mainly by Britain's "Big Six" brewers: Bass, Allied-Lyons, Whitbread, Grand Metropolitan, Scottish & Newcastle and

Courage. Another report by the MMC yesterday turned down Elders' £1.6 billion bid for Scottish & Newcastle on competition grounds.

The Brewers' Society, the trade organization representing all but the smallest brewers, roundly rejected the MMC's report on tied-house arrangements yesterday, calling it a "charter for chaos" and a threat to the traditional British public house.

It would mean an end to many of Britain's 33,000 tenanted public houses, it said, with small traditional ones, especially those in rural areas, at risk. There would be fewer breweries and a "huge cut-back" in the number of beer brands.

However, the Government clearly hopes the shake-up will lower prices and open the way for new, smaller breweries to be established.

The main brewing industry report shows that Big Six domination of the industry has led to artificially high prices of beer and, in turn, unfair regional differences in prices and has blocked small, independent brewers.

The 500-page report calls for a shake-up to lower beer prices, give more choice, encourage small breweries and promote the sale of soft drinks and low and non-alcoholic beer in public houses.

The report recommends that no brewery own more than 2,000 public houses; tied houses be allowed to sell "guest" draught beer; tied houses be allowed to buy in other low and non-alcoholic beers, wines, spirits, ciders, soft drinks and mineral waters; that no new tied-house agreements be concluded; and that brewers publish wholesale price lists.

It recommends that the Big Six, which together own 74 per cent of public houses, should be given three years to divest 21,900 of their 33,900 tied properties.

Lord Young said it would be "not weeks, not years,

probably months" before he made his decision.

In the interim, he would consult brewers, his colleagues — including Mr John MacGregor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food — and the European Commission.

"I have considered the report and I am minded to implement the recommendations," he said. "I think it is a fair assessment."

Sir Leon Brittan, the UK's European Commissioner for competition policy, has announced that the Commission will hold its own investigation into the brewing monopoly.

Britain has been granted an exemption from EEC rules on competition in the brewing industry until 1997.

One of Lord Young's main objections to the present system is the demise of the industry's entrepreneurs, with 160 smaller brewers controlling less than 1 per cent of the industry.

The MMC report shows that the domination of the brewing industry has led to the price of a pint rising by 15 per cent more than the cost of living in the past 10 years.

Lager sells for about 10p a pint more than bitter, in spite of similar production costs.

The Brewers' Society said putting a ceiling on the number of public houses a brewer could own and eliminating key aspects of the tied-house

Continued on page 24, col 6

'Disastrous' — Hermon verdict on RUC murders



Death scene: Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the RUC, centre, inspecting the spot yesterday where two of his most senior officers were shot dead.

Channon fights back in Lockerbie onslaught

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Paul Channon yesterday survived an ordeal by fire in the Commons to remove immediate doubts over his Cabinet future.

The Secretary of State for Transport, finally required to defend his handling of the Lockerbie disaster last December, gave a fighting performance which senior Conservatives agreed had lifted the pressure off him.

During highly charged exchanges Mr Channon rejected suggestions that he had misled journalists at a private lunch last Wednesday into believing that the bomber and his or her whereabouts was known.

But the Labour leadership last night challenged him to sue the newspapers which had said he was the source of the reports that the identity of the bomber was known.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, believes there are essential questions which remain unanswered about what Mr Channon said at the lunch. And Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Democrats' leader, said that Mr Channon's answers would not satisfy MPs.

The crucial question yesterday was whether Mr Channon satisfied his own side on his handling of airline security. Had he failed to do so he could have been out of office by the weekend. He won their support, but few Tories are taking bets on him surviving the next reshuffle.

The Conservatives rallied

to support Mr Channon, determined that Mr John Prescott, Labour's spokesman, should be denied the minister's scalp after weeks of harrying him.

Mrs Thatcher had given them a lead at question-time earlier by condemning what she called "totally unfair allegations made against him by lesser men", a remark which brought resounding cheers from the Tory benches.

Mr Channon had been finally forced to appear in the

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Commons after the Speaker granted a private notice question to Mr Kinnock.

In the event the Conservatives found more to cheer in the Minister's performance than they had expected. One said afterwards: "Up against it, he showed a new steel."

What delighted the Government was that the exchanges between Mr Channon and Mr Neil Kinnock brought to an end the Labour leader's good run in the Commons over recent weeks.

Labour MPs afterwards criticized Mr Kinnock for sticking too rigidly to his prepared brief when Mr Channon had already answered some of his points. One senior party figure said afterwards: "We've made collective idiots of ourselves."

Continued on page 24, col 2

Secret papers lost in ambush

By Jamie Dettmer, Nicholas Wood and David Sapsted

Secret documents detailing cross-border intelligence operations against terrorists were believed to have been stolen in the IRA ambush in which two senior Royal Ulster Constabulary officers were killed, it was disclosed yesterday.

The documents, which the RUC said were "highly sensitive", centred on cross-border security operations against the IRA in South Armagh. Personal documents belonging to the dead officers were also believed to have been taken.

Chief Supt Harry Breen and Supt Bob Buchanan had taken the documents to a meeting on cross-border security with their Garda counterparts in Dundalk, a republican stronghold, across the border on the Newry-to-Dublin road.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, told the Commons yesterday that the advisability of Dundalk as a meeting place for future talks would form part of inquiries into the killings in Ulster and the Republic.

Police on both sides of the border believe the two officers were tracked by IRA spotters after making an impromptu

decision about the route home. It is believed they were not the victims of a republican "mole" inside the Garda.

It was disclosed yesterday that the two men made a desperate attempt to escape their killers, trying to turn their car in the narrow road

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near Jonesburgh, a few hundred yards from the border. However, the vehicle careered backwards into a ditch as gunmen opened fire.

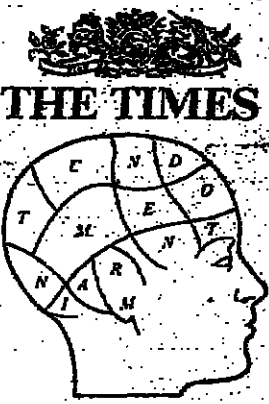
Essential questions about the killings, which were condemned by politicians on both sides of the border, remained unanswered. They included:

● Why were the two officers unarmed and unescorted?

● Why did they travel in an unmarked, maroon car belonging to Mr Buchanan when the vehicle with its Northern Ireland number plates could have been seen easily entering the Garda headquarters in Dundalk? Mr Breen was well-known for masterminding a series of anti-IRA operations.

● How was the IRA able to orchestrate the ambush?

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TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND

● Today is Round Eight of Tournament of the Mind, the competition which challenges readers' numeracy, logic, word power, and general knowledge.

● There is a £5,000 prize for the outright individual winner, and a Hewlett Packard personal computer for the winner of the schools' section. Round Eight: page 12

● The average car produces about half a ton of pollutants a year. Today's Spectrum looks at the facts behind the lead-free debate. Page 12

PORTFOLIO BOND

● There were no winners of yesterday's £2,000 daily prize in Portfolio Bond. Today's game: page 35

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Elders bid for S&N blocked

By Kerry Gill

Scotland and the north-east of England celebrated yesterday after the Government surprisingly blocked the £1.6 billion bid by Elders DXL for Scottish and Newcastle Breweries.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission concluded that a takeover would be against the public interest. It also ordered Elders DXL to reduce its holding in the brewers from 23.6 per cent to 9.9 per cent over the next year.

Politicians, businessmen and trade unionists expressed delight that the Australian brewing giant's bid had failed after a four-month battle.

Sir David Nickson, chairman of Scottish and Newcas-

tle Breweries, said: "We are extremely pleased and the whole of Scotland will be absolutely delighted. We are

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immensely grateful for the universal support we have had throughout Scotland."

Sir David said it was clear that if another brewing company made a similar bid it would also be unsuccessful.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, said: "I am absolutely delighted. Now the future is clear, I look forward to seeing

Scottish and Newcastle, based in headquarters in Edinburgh, continuing to make a significant contribution to the prosperity of Scotland."

The 8,000 workers employed by the brewers in Scotland were celebrating. If Elders had been successful, 5,000 could have lost their jobs north of the border. Last night, many brewery pubs were planning to offer customers a free celebratory pint.

Mr Mark Lazarowicz, leader of the Labour administration on Edinburgh District Council, said the decision removed a cloud over the heads of the workforce.

Bordes' Commons pass 'was checked'

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, last night denied that a Commons pass had been issued to Miss Pamela Bordes without proper security checks.

In a statement to MPs on the Commons services committee he said he had spoken to Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, and to the authorities concerned and was satisfied that all the proper precautions had been taken. The committee discussed the matter briefly, accepted his assurances and is not expected to take further action. Mr

Wakeham said in the wake of the Pamela Bordes case he consulted the Speaker and sought advice from the authorities concerned. He had no doubt "in the light of this advice that proper steps were taken in this case and I am assured appropriate measures were and are being taken whenever an application is made for the issue of a pass to these people."

The Bordes affair was cited in the Lords last night as an argument for setting up a Security Service Review to monitor the workings of MIS.

Thatcher denounces advertisement by the Bar

By Richard Ford

The Prime Minister yesterday strongly denounced a national newspaper advertisement, placed by the Bar Council, which criticized the Government's radical proposals to reform the legal profession.

Mrs Thatcher accused the barristers' body of "unprofessional" behaviour in denigrating other lawyers in the two-page advertisement, which appeared in last Friday's edition of *The Times*.

Her attack on the council came as the Law Society, which represents solicitors, made thinly veiled criticisms of the Bar's tactics in fighting the Lord Chancellor's proposals. At the launch of a document giving its provisional response, the society

called for a balanced and reasoned approach by the profession.

Mrs Thatcher, a barrister, told MPs that the Government shared the concern of the Director of Public Prosecutions at the "unfair and inaccurate comments" made in the advertisement. She added: "I think it is most unprofessional for the Bar Council to denigrate other members of the legal profession."

The advertisement — headed "300 years after the Bill of Rights, a Bill of Wrongs" — infuriated the DPP, Mr Alan Green, who has written to the chairman of the Bar Council, Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, complaining that it described the Crown Prosecution Service as "state prosecutors".

Last night, a Bar spokesman de-

fended the Saatchi and Saatchi advertisement, saying: "The Bar stands by the advert."

The Prime Minister's attack came after the Government was warned of the danger in introducing too much regulation of the legal profession under its far-reaching proposals to reform the legal system.

In a detailed response to the Lord Chancellor's three Green Papers, the Law Society was implicitly critical of the Bar's reaction to the proposals.

While broadly welcoming the changes proposed by the Lord Chancellor, the society criticized some of being "ill thought-out". But Mr David Ward, the society's vice-president, said the time had come for a balanced and constructive contribution to the

debate. Clearly criticizing tactics by the Bar and members of the judiciary, he said: "Knee-jerk reactions are no substitute for reasoned argument."

The 27-page document, *Striking the Balance*, criticizes the Lord Chancellor for taking a "sledgehammer to crack a nut" by requiring parliamentary approval for lawyers' codes of conduct. It warns of the threat posed to solicitors by the creation of multi-disciplinary practices and by allowing institutions to undertake conveyancing.

The society welcomes the proposals to extend the rights of audience, rejecting Bar arguments on the threat posed if solicitors are also allowed to represent clients in court.

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Ulster adds Irish to curriculum

Children in Northern Ireland will be able to learn Irish as their one compulsory language in the national curriculum planned for the province, the Northern Ireland Education Minister, Dr Brian Mawhinney, said yesterday.

He originally said only French, Spanish and German could be chosen as compulsory languages but, after protests, the minister has added Italian and Irish. Schools will have to provide the first four, adding Irish if they wish, but where Irish is taught it may be chosen as the compulsory language.

Dr Mawhinney told a meeting of sixth formers in Belfast that he had many requests to add the two extra languages. But he said that he still believed all pupils should learn one of the main European languages. He added: "Parents who choose to have their children take Irish instead of one of them, at a time when the importance of the European dimension is growing, should think carefully about the future possible consequences of such a decision".

Rushdie court move

Solicitors in south-west London will apply to the High Court today for a private prosecution against Penguin Books, the publishers of Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*. The summons, brought under Section Four of the Public Order Act on behalf of a Mr Richard White, alleges the book contains abusive and insulting writing likely to provoke unlawful violence. Further applications under other sections of the Act are expected. Richmond magistrates have already rejected a similar application. *Howe trip cut, page 9*

BMA starts £7m fight

The British Medical Association has appointed a top advertising agency to help it to fight the Government's reforms of the National Health Service. The agency, Abbott Mead Vickers, will be responsible for a campaign costing an estimated £7 million. It will aim to inform the public of doctors' fears, using leaflets and posters in surgeries followed by national TV and press advertising. The move comes after calls from doctors urging the BMA to retaliate against the Government's £1 million-plus launch for the proposals.

Go-kart crash death

Lady Sara Hamilton-Russell died during an emergency operation after suffering neck injuries in a go-kart accident, it was disclosed yesterday. Lady Sara, aged 30, the daughter of Lord Boyne, was driving the go-kart at a purpose-built Scout Association track at Buckmore Park, Chatham, Kent, when the accident occurred last Sunday. She was taken to the Medway Accident Centre, Gillingham, but died on the operating table. A spokesman for Lord Boyne, of Burwarton House, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, said yesterday: "He is very shocked by the sudden death of his daughter".

Fiction prize takes off

Collins could have as many as 500,000 entries from aspiring authors for the new Ian St James Literary Award. Less than a month after the short story award was launched, 250 entries have been received and nearly all the 500,000 entry forms have been distributed. The publishers announced an extra print-run of entry forms for the award yesterday. The competition has prize money totalling £28,000 and is open only to people who have not already had fiction published in book form.

Pledge on child abuse

Southwark borough council has pledged to invest £400,000 in improving child protection services after a critical report from the Social Services Inspectorate in the wake of the killing of 16-month-old Doreen Mason. The inspectorate said there were a number of positive features but it was concerned that 50 children considered at risk of abuse had no social workers allocated to their cases.

Labour may end unions' preferential treatment

By Roland Rudd and John Lewis

Labour's special policy review group is proposing to end the preferential treatment of unions if the party is returned to power at the next general election.

In the most fundamental redefinition of its relationship with unions in the past 10 years, Labour's employment policy group has drawn up an imaginative and controversial document defining a new role for unions which aims to allay fears that they be too powerful under a Labour government.

Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's employment spokesman and chair of the review group, made clear yesterday that his party would never return to the era of "beer and sandwiches" when union leaders were invited to 10 Downing Street to discuss government

policy. He said: "It will not be possible for unions to force through the back door what they cannot negotiate through the front".

The move represents a watershed in the relationship between the two parts of the labour movement. It establishes a proper role for unions who would no longer be able to lobby a Labour government privately.

The review group also committed itself to reforming the union's block vote at its party conference before the next general election. Mr Meacher believes it is imperative that unions should not be seen to have too much influence in the party.

The review group concedes for the first time that unions on a national level are seen as potentially wielding considerable economic and political power. "Here, there is at best ambivalence, at worst suspicion and hostility,

on the part of large numbers of people in and out of unions."

Labour was determined to combat the image of unions without necessarily repealing present industrial relations reforms. It was planning a big campaign to show that strong unions were good for the economy by improving productivity and contributing to higher living standards, Mr Meacher said.

At the same time, Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour deputy leader, announced yesterday that a six-point civil rights programme would be given priority by an incoming Labour government.

Mr Hattersley, Labour's home affairs spokesman, said the party would act quickly in areas of freedom of information and official secrets, as well as the control of the security services, which would involve par-

liamentary scrutiny, the right of privacy and right of reply and reform of nationality and immigration legislation.

Equal rights for ethnic minorities, for women and for other minority groups, including lesbians and homosexuals, would be woven into employment and other legislation.

A big increase in legal aid and law centre funding would be made to provide equal access to the law. Equal sex and race legislation would probably come first.

Labour was looking at the creation of a ministry of justice to handle the changes and to ensure equality of treatment. Mr Hattersley said: "Equal access to, as well as equal treatment before, the law epitomizes the spirit of the civil liberties legislation. We are intending not simply to say, 'You have the right to do this', but to make it a right you can exercise."

French may have found toxic cargo in Channel

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

There were hopes last night that the French navy might have located the container carrying five tons of highly toxic insecticide lost in the Channel a week ago. The minesweeper Orion picked up a sonar echo about 400 ft down in an area to the north of Alderney.

The container was part of a cargo being carried from Antwerp to Jakarta by the Perintis, an Indonesian-registered vessel which capsized and sank in a storm 35 miles north-west of Guernsey on March 13.

A tug, the Abeille-Languedoc, recovered the container and was towing it to Cherbourg when the tow ropes snapped in rough seas. The tug's captain did not realize he had lost it until the next day.

A second French navy minesweeper, the Orion, joined the search for the container yesterday around Alderney. It is a modern minesweeper, equipped with high-technology acoustic detection apparatus.

The container may have sunk into a 300ft deep trench on the seabed used by Britain for dumping surplus naval ammunition after the Second

World War and low-level nuclear waste in the 1950s and early 1960s. The French have declined British offers of help in looking for the container, which sank in French territorial waters.

On Monday night, the Maritime Prefecture in Cherbourg announced a ban on fishing, dragging or anchoring ships in a 730 sq mile area north of the Normandy peninsula.

In Britain, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food announced a ban on fishing within a radius of seven nautical miles of where the container is believed to be.

Both French and British officials said yesterday that samples of water taken from the site of the shipwreck and the presumed location of the lost container had so far shown no traces of either Lindane or Permethrin.

Both chemicals are highly toxic insecticides, but Lindane, a persistent organochlorine compound, is particularly worrying: it can kill marine life at concentrations well below the nine-thousandths of a gramme that can be dissolved in a litre of sea water.

Family mourns vicarage fire girls



Joseph Acheson, aged seven, who survived the fire in which his three sisters died at Chilmark vicarage, Wiltshire, carries a posy to their funeral yesterday with his parents, the Rev Malcolm Acheson and his wife Pauline. Schoolfriends and adults wept as the coffin of the girls, Gemma, aged 11, Miriam, aged 10, and Della five, were carried into the graveyard.

Crash shuts M1 as rain adds to jams

By Tony Dawe

The northbound carriageway of the M1 was closed for the second afternoon running in Hertfordshire yesterday after several vehicles collided. Heavy rain also brought traffic chaos to London.

Nobody was seriously hurt in the M1 crash but an overturned van spilled paint over the motorway, which was closed for 90 minutes while the vehicles were

removed and the paint washed away. A 12-mile jam built up northbound and although the road was re-opened at 3.29 pm traffic crawled throughout the evening rush period.

In London, lights failed on the A13, causing a tailback into the Blackwall Tunnel, on the A2 at Shooters Hill, on the A40 at Acton, on the A217 at Wandsworth and on the Marylebone

Road and Victoria Embankment in the centre. Broken down vehicles affected Hyde Park Corner, Parliament Square and Waterloo Bridge.

If you were caught in the traffic yesterday or on Monday, please write with precise details of when and where you were stopped and the place and time you got free to: *The Times Traffic Survey*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

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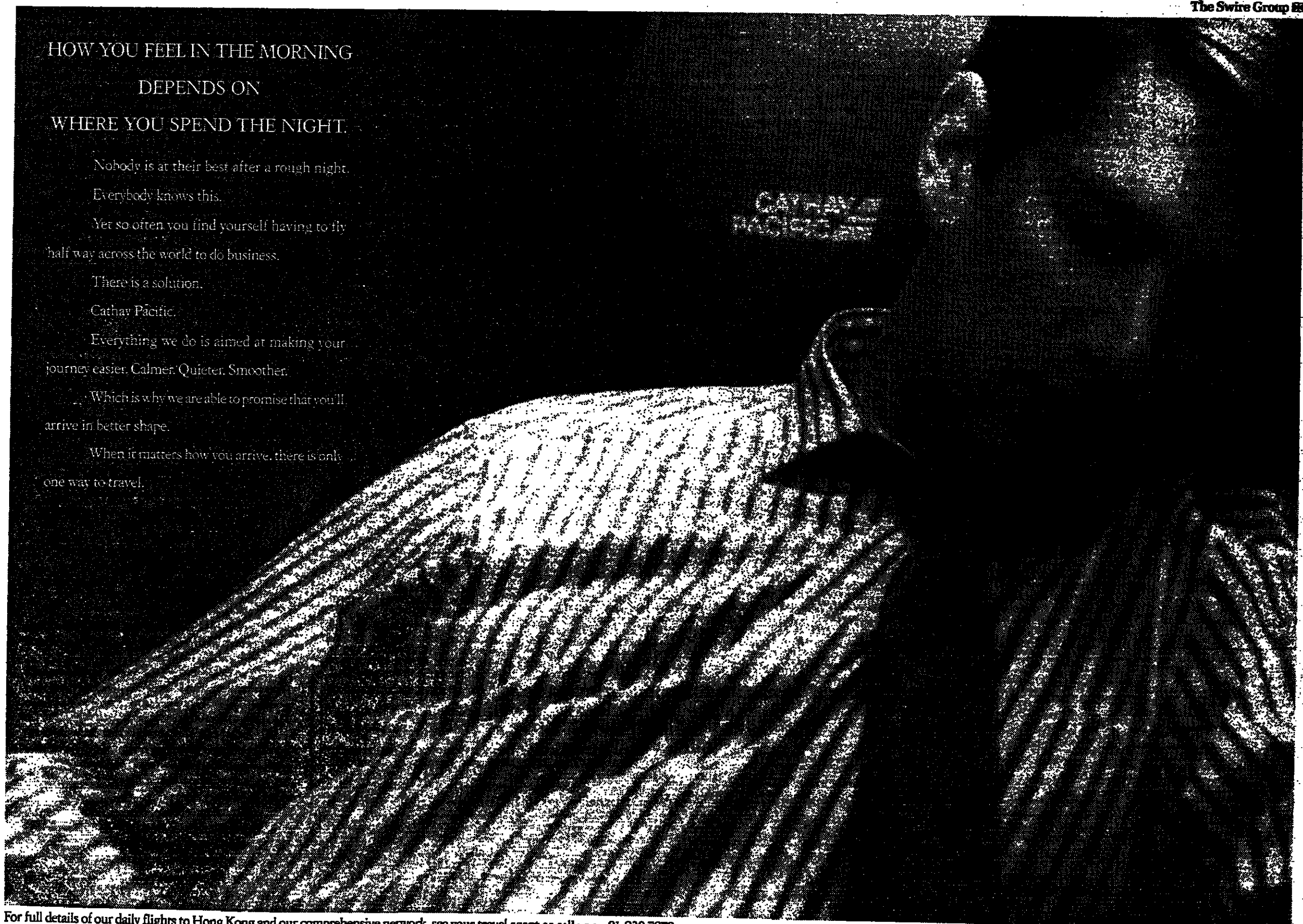
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Use nuclear missile base to fly out tourists, MPs say

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Holiday charter flights could take off from the cruise missile base at Greenham Common if the Government implements a proposal by an all-party group of MPs.

The Commons transport committee is suggesting 47 ways to ease the airport and air traffic control crisis.

It proposes using Greenham and the RAF's main transport airfields of Brize Norton and Lyneham as relief airports.

"It is not an ideal solution but the London area runway capacity is becoming so acute that any alleviation ought to be seriously considered", the MPs say.

The report also calls for a second runway at Gatwick, the break-up of the Civil Aviation Authority, with air traffic control becoming the responsibility of a new body, the rapid expansion of Stansted and Luton, greater use of larger aircraft, much bigger investment in air traffic control equipment, an independent body to investigate air misses and a new central air traffic control centre.

The MPs criticize the CAA and BAA (formerly the British Airports Authority) for failing to prevent overcrowding and overloading of the air traffic control system.

Little account was taken

Jail for head who stole pupils' cash

By Craig Seton

A comprehensive school headmaster was jailed for a year yesterday for stealing almost £50,000 which his pupils saved for a trip to the United States.

Dudley Crown Court, sitting in Birmingham, heard that Anthony Bowyer, aged 64, for 20 years the headmaster at Highfields Comprehensive in Wolverhampton, stole the money to pay credit card debts and finance companies.

The court was told that the holiday bank account should have contained £52,900, but a teacher discovered that only £700 was left after Bowyer cashed 276 cheques over a three-year period.

Bowyer, of Spring Close, Hagley, Hereford and Worcester, was sentenced to three years in prison.

Judge Mott told Bowyer: "My reaction to this case is one of amazement and sadness. You betrayed the trust and confidence of a number of people from a position of high authority."

Mr John Saunders, for the prosecution, said Bowyer's misuse of the money came to light when a travel company began pressing for payment of £35,000.

Mr Anthony Palmer QC, for the defence, said Bowyer was inadequate with money. He had always intended to use a lump sum due on his retirement to repay the fund.

He said Bowyer had since offered £23,500 from his retirement fund to pay back Wolverhampton council and the authority had accepted.

Mr Anthony Bowyer: Money used to pay off debts.

Tiger plays the waiting game



The smile on the face of Mayura, Britain's only white Bengal tiger, belies its savage nature. The two-year-old female is stuck in quarantine until July, when it will be released into Longleat Safari Park in Wiltshire with Sona, its intended mate. Longleat paid £35,000 for Mayura and it arrived from Cincinnati Zoo, Ohio, six weeks ago. The safari park paid for the flight, on the American Flying Tigers cargo airline. Sona is a half-white, or hetero, Bengal tiger. Longleat hopes the two will mate next year and produce a mixed litter of white and hetero tiger cubs, as a foundation for Britain's first collection of white tigers.

Runcie is likely to visit Pope

By Clifford Longley
Religious affairs editor

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, is expected to announce in his Easter Day sermon that he is to visit the Pope in Rome, probably in the autumn.

The most difficult item on the agenda will be the acceptance of women bishops in some parts of the Anglican Communion, which has been described by Roman Catholic spokesmen as representing a further obstacle to church unity.

The agenda will also include a more wide-ranging review of Anglican-Roman Catholic relations, for the two church leaders are jointly responsible for the work of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission.

They have met several times in the past, it will be Dr Runcie's first visit to Rome as Archbishop of Canterbury. He is owed an invitation, as he was the Pope's host in 1982 when they took part in a joint service in Canterbury Cathedral.

Libel damages

Lady Dudley, the former actress Maureen Swanson, won undisclosed libel damages and costs in the High Court yesterday over a slur on her reputation in a book about the Profumo affair.

Jury in hotel

A Central Criminal Court jury considering verdicts in the case of four people accused of involvement in a £100 million cocaine-smuggling operation retired for their second night at a hotel yesterday and resume their deliberations today.

Marking time

House prices in Britain are likely to stagnate this year, the Halifax Building Society said yesterday. It expects high demand in the Midlands and North but a slowing down in the South.

Profits up, page 27

Eagles nest

England's only pair of breeding golden eagles have nested 2000 ft up on Lake District mountains near Haweswater, Cumbria, and are expected to lay eggs at the weekend.

9% pay offer

Union leaders at Peugeot Talbot's Coventry plant have recommended acceptance of a two-year pay agreement worth 9 per cent each year to 4,500 manual workers.

Portfolio Bond

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Bond prize, but six people, including Mr J. Clynne, of Harmer Green Lane, Digswell, Welwyn, Hertfordshire, renewed their bonds for £1,000; two for £50; two for £10 and one for £25.

Broadcasting White Paper

IBA head attacks high-bid tendering

By Simon Tait

The new chairman of commercial television's controlling body says he may resign if the Government fails to modify its White Paper on Broadcasting.

Mr George Russell said yesterday he was concerned about the proposed system of tendering for franchises. "If I am faced with a single envelope tender which I cannot believe in I don't think I could continue the job", he said.

Mr Russell, who was appointed IBA chairman in January, is due to become the first chairman of its successor, the Independent Television Commission.

The Government proposes that applications for television franchises should be at two stages: a "quality threshold" followed by a financial tender with the licence going to the highest bidder. But Mr Russell wants a more complicated procedure to ensure applicants have sound business plans and

that their money is "safe", so also safeguarding their ability to maintain high quality programming. He said he felt parts of the White Paper were still open for discussion.

"The IBA's proposals for competitive tendering aims to ensure that it is not 'who dares wins' but 'who prepares wins'", he said. "Unrealistic bids or programme services which cannot be delivered will not help anyone."

The IBA also calls for other fundamental changes in the Home Office proposals.

Channel Four should become a non-profit-making subsidiary of the commission, selling its own advertising time instead of it being done by the independent television companies.

The ITV levy, a tax on company profits which would yield more than £180 million in 1990, should be abolished because the bidding would cover that sum.

Requirements for public service broadcasting on matters such as the arts, religion and children's programmes should be spread across Channel Three, Channel Four and the proposed new Channel Five, with the commission able to specify quality and diversity.

The ITC should review performance of companies annually and have the power to withdraw franchises.

The IBA's transmission operation should not be regionally fragmented but be privatized as a national operation.

Changes should be gradually introduced over five years starting in 1990, rather than suddenly in 1991-92.

"The IBA shares the Government's objectives put forward in the White Paper, but we question whether all the particular proposals are workable in the form which they are putting forward and will achieve the desired objectives", Mr Russell said in his foreword to the authority's submission.

Submarine left drunk captain behind

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

The captain of the nuclear-powered hunter killer submarine, HMS Churchill, ended a dockside pub crawl on his knees during shore leave in Gibraltar, with fellow officers singing "Hi ho, hi ho, a court martial at Portsmouth was told yesterday."

Commander William Pym, aged 44, a Royal Navy officer with 25 years' experience, had to be taken to hospital and woke up hours later to find that his submarine had left without him.

Yesterday he pleaded guilty to being drunk. He confessed he was deeply embarrassed by the incident and wished to apologize. He had already been stripped of his command and yesterday he was fined £1,200 and severely reprimanded.

Lieutenant-Commander Richard

Dunne, for the prosecution, said HMS Churchill had arrived in Gibraltar on November 6 last year. After drinks in the afternoon and evening Cdr Pym left a bar, on his knees, with his drinking partners performing a routine from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. They went on to a restaurant where Cdr Pym drank two glasses of wine with a meal and then to a bar where they carried on drinking with junior ratings from HMS Churchill. Three members of the crew helped Cdr Pym from the bar because he was unsteady on his feet, the court martial was told. They all collapsed to the ground. When two policemen attempted to intervene, one of the officers shouted: "This is the captain of the Churchill, leave him alone."

Cdr Pym, unable to walk, was taken by ambulance to the Royal Naval Hospital, where he was detained for 36 hours.

Lt Cdr Dunne added: "By the time he

came round, Churchill had sailed from Gibraltar, leaving the accused behind." Lt Cdr Robert Fraser, for the defence, said HMS Churchill had been at sea for many weeks carrying out trials which had been troubled by equipment defects. Cdr Pym had developed a heavy cold and was taking medication. The evening in Gibraltar was "lively and good humoured and an excellent way for the ship's company to unwind". He added: "A combination of the drink, medicine and lack of sleep took its toll. He felt horror, shame and embarrassment when he was told what had happened and when he discovered his ship had gone without him."

Cdr Pym, married with two teenage sons, is now working at the Joint Acoustic and Anti Submarine Warfare Centre at Farnborough, Hampshire. He has not lost any seniority. The sentence is subject to confirmation.

Mock death threats 'daily'

A football club chairman charged with threatening to kill his team manager regularly made mock death threats to his staff, a court was told yesterday.

"I told him I'd kill him but I didn't mean it", John Aspley told Stoke-on-Trent Crown Court. "It's something I said regularly and I threatened to kill my staff every day of the week."

Mr Aspley said he had taped a telephone conversation between Mr Neil Baker, his manager, and Miss Wendy Knott, his girl friend, which confirmed that the pair were having an affair. It had also included a reference to his [Mr Aspley's] will. Mr Baker and Miss Knott had discussed

killing him, he told the court. Mr Aspley, aged 38, the chairman of Leek Town Football Club, decided to confront Mr Baker and asked his manager to visit him at home, he said. There he produced a shotgun, and after an argument, fired a shot.

"My intentions were to play Baker the tape and tell him that I knew about the affair and that he was plotting to kill me", Mr Aspley said.

"When he came into the house I was on the settee with the gun cocked open in my lap. It wasn't loaded but I had three live cartridges in my pocket."

protection because I was very frightened."

Mr Aspley said he was "no physical match" for Mr Baker because his left hand was partly paralyzed and his right arm was pinned with steel rods as the result of an accident.

"Baker ran from the room before I could play him the tape and I walked to the front door. He was at the end of my drive about 40 yards away and we had a shouted conversation with a lot of swearing."

"Eventually I loaded one barrel and shot from the hip. The gun was pointing at a 90 degree angle away from Baker and the shot hit the lawn and a holly tree."

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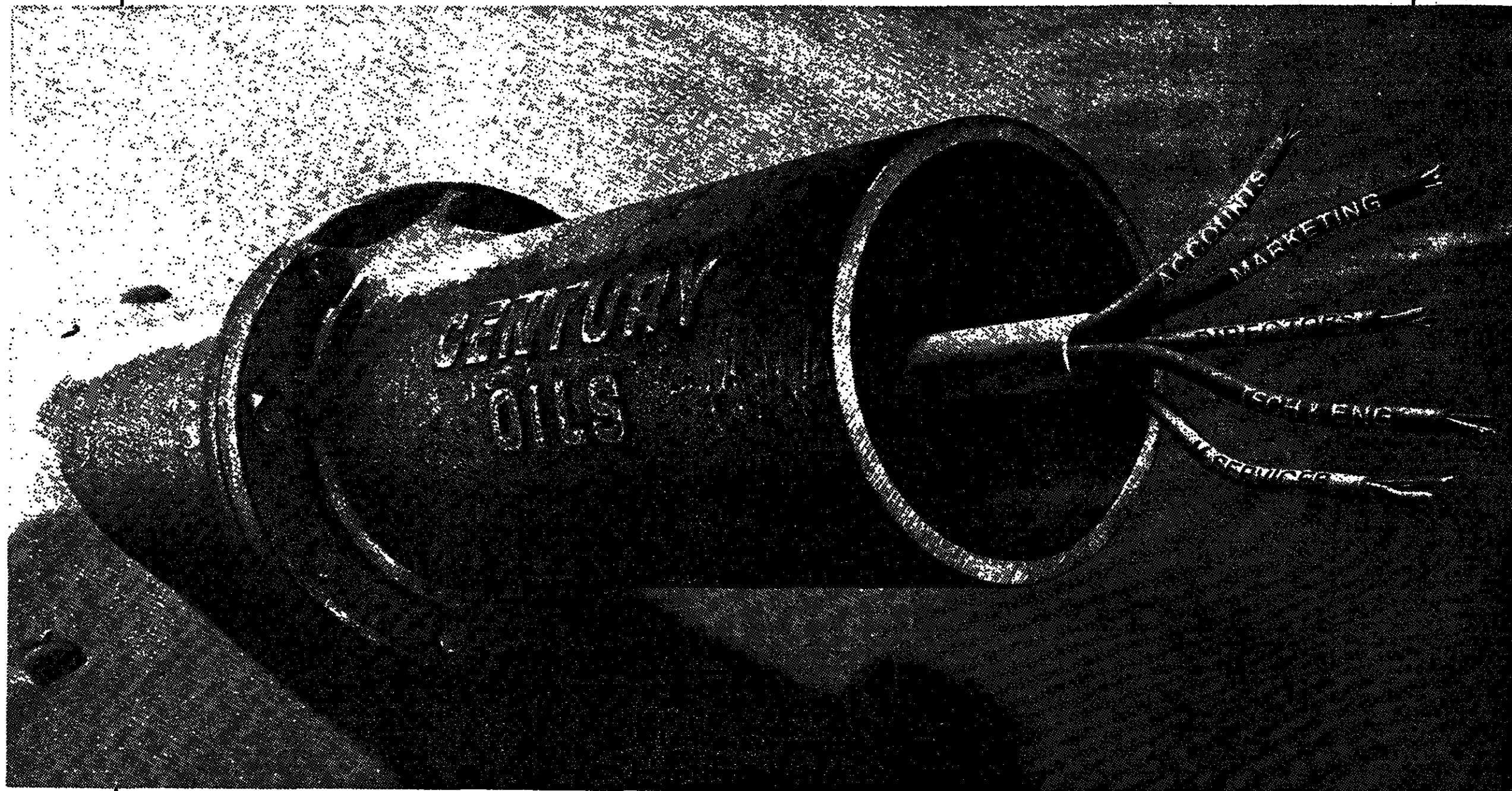
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MONOPOLIES COMMISSION: THE SUPPLY OF BEER

Untying Britain's tangled beer market

A complex monopoly has enabled brewers with tied estates to frustrate the growth of brewers without tied estates, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission reports

Our terms of reference require us to investigate and report on whether a monopoly situation exists in relation to the supply of beer for retail sale in the United Kingdom.

We have unanimously concluded that a monopoly exists in favour of those brewers who own tied houses or who have tying agreements with free houses in return for loans at favourable interest rates.

We have taken into account Commission Regulation 1984/83, which contains a block exemption for certain beer supply agreements. This block exemption is qualified and of finite duration. Its existence does not prevent us from recommending changes.

Sales of beer in the United Kingdom amount to over £9 billion, or more than 2 per cent of gross domestic product. Total beer consumption reached a peak in 1979 and fell back during the recession. It did not begin to grow again until 1987.

The market shares of ale, stout and lager have changed enormously. Lager has gained ground steadily (from less than 4 per cent of the total in 1967 to more than 45 per cent in 1987) and the share of ale (bitter and mild) has fallen, as has that of stout. Lager appears still to be gaining market share.

Although sales of beer in off-licences and supermarkets are growing, 85 per cent of beer is consumed in public houses, clubs and other on-licensed premises.

The public house remains central to the nation's beer-drinking habits. Three-quarters of beer consumed in the United Kingdom is draught beer.

Premises serving alcohol in the United Kingdom require a licence. In 1986 there were some 192,000 licences in issue, nearly 40 per cent more than in 1966.

Growth by type of licence has, however, been very uneven. The strongest growth by far has been in the restricted

Eloquently though the industry's case has been put, we are not persuaded all is well

on-licence sector (such as restaurants), where licences have virtually quadrupled from about 7,000 in 1966 to 28,000 in 1986.

There has also been strong growth in off-licensed outlets, from 30,000 to 50,000, an increase of two-thirds. Licences issued to clubs have grown by about 30 per cent to 34,000. But in those 20 years the number of full on-licences has grown by no more than 7 per cent, to 80,000.

Since a public house requires a full on-licence, it follows that the increase in the number of public houses over the past 20 years has been low. Although the practice of licensing justices varies, it is still difficult in many parts of the country to obtain a new full on-licence, especially for a conventional public house.

Entry to the market by opening a new public house is not therefore a characteristic of the United Kingdom beer market. There has been very little development of public house chains independent of the brewers.

By contrast, the nature of off-licensed premises has changed no less substantially than their numbers.

Where once the off-licence

was part of a public house, or perhaps a specialist shop, it is now just as likely to be part of a supermarket owned by one of the nationwide chains, or a smaller grocery shop. Brewer-owned off-licences are now fewer than 10 per cent of the total.

One of the most prominent features of the beer industry is the extent of vertical integration. Brewing companies differ greatly in size, but most brew beer and wholesale it and retail it.

In order to retail beer, brewing companies own a substantial proportion of the public houses. We estimate that brewers own about 75 per cent of the public houses in Great Britain.

Brewer-owned houses fall into two categories — managed, in which the publican and, as a rule, the staff are employees of the brewing company; and tenanted, where the publican is not an employee but pays the brewer-landlord rent and earns his living from the retail profit. In the case of managed public houses, the brewer sets retail prices.

The market has become more concentrated in recent years as large brewers have taken over smaller ones. The six national brewers had 68 per cent of the market in 1967 and today have 75 per cent.

Eloquently though the industry's case has been put, we are not persuaded that all is well. We have confirmed our provisional finding that a complex monopoly situation exists in favour of the brewers with tied estates and loan ties.

This complex monopoly restricts competition at all levels. Brewers are protected from competition in supplying their managed and tenanted estates because other brewers do not have access to them.

Even in the free trade many brewers prefer to compete by offering low-interest loans, which then tie the outlet to them, rather than by offering beer at lower prices.

Wholesale prices are higher than they would be in the absence of the tie. This inevitably feeds through into high retail prices.

The ownership and loan ties also give little opportunity for an independent wholesaling sector to prosper and offer competition to the brewers' wholesaling activities, for example by offering a mix of products from different producers.

At the retail level the effect of the high wholesale price is that free houses cannot offer effective competition to the brewers' own managed and tenanted outlets.

Because wholesale prices are too high, there is pressure on the free trade to accept loans, which then fetter their ability to attract customers by offering their own distinctive range of products, drawn from many brewers. The development of independent retail chains of the sort seen in the off-licensed trade is also severely restricted.

Although the brewers have been investing heavily in their public houses, and use this as a justification for higher prices, there is no opportunity for these developments to be tested by competition to see whether consumers are getting the mixture of price and amenity that they really want.

In summary, the main points which we see as arising from this lack of competition are:

● The price of a pint of beer in a public house has risen too fast in the past few years.



Cheers: Landlord Richard Brown raises a glass to the report but fears brewers may seek to recoup profits

Report 'an excellent move for tenants'

The report was welcomed as "an excellent move" for tenanted landlords by Mr Richard Brown, tenant at Ye Olde Monken Hoot in High Barnet, Hertfordshire (writes David Rowan).

However, Mr Brown said he was concerned that brewers might try to raise tenants' rents in order to maintain profit levels. "As public companies, brewers are responsible primarily to their shareholders," he said. "They rely for profits on the rent paid by tenants

and the guaranteed wholesale on beer we sell on their behalf. I am wondering whether they will try to recoup some of this profit by increasing tenants' rents."

"I approve particularly of the proposed freedom to sell a guest beer, and a wider range of low-alcohol beers and wines," Mr Brown added.

There were enormous financial advantages to be gained by "free traders" tied to no single brewery, who could negotiate substantial wholesale price dis-

counts, he said. "I pay about £140 plus Vat for a barrel of best bitter, but as a free trader I could negotiate up to a £30 discount by approaching all six main breweries."

"The prices quoted by the breweries to managed houses are not market prices but are like Monopoly money, passing straight from one end of the company to the other. If the option arose and I had the finances I would certainly prefer to be a free trader," he said.

Proposals need clearance from Europe

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

A paroxysm of change faces the big brewers if Lord Young, the Trade and Industry Secretary, backs the Monopolies and Mergers Commission recommendations after discussions with the European Commission.

Lord Young needs clearance from the Commission because of its exemption given to all brewers in the EEC which allows the tied pub system to continue until 1997. The Commission has itself just set up a new inquiry into the exemption

which might lead to its being scrapped earlier than 1997, although possibly with a ceiling to protect smaller brewers.

City analysts are predicting that the big brewers are likely to make a choice as between staying in brewing or becoming drinks retailers.

Such a shake-up in the industry, the biggest for decades, is also likely to see more direct involvement by foreign brewers. Mr John Elliott's Elders with its Courage subsidiary is likely to take the brewing route, forecast Mr John Dunsmore, senior drinks analyst at County NatWest WoodMac. He also expects Scottish

& Newcastle Breweries, rescued from takeover by Elders by the MMC in its report yesterday, also to follow the brewing option. Guinness among the big operators is already primarily a brewer and so is Denmark's Carlsberg.

But forecast to move mainly into retailing are Allied-Lyons (Britain's second largest brewer whose brands include Ind Coope, Skol, Benskins and Tetley), Grand Metropolitan (with brands like Watney, Mann and Truman) and Whitbread (Flowers, Fremantle and Wethered's as well as the Whitbread ales); Bass, Britain's biggest brewer

which at more than 7,000 also has the largest number of pubs, is likely to split itself into two separate companies, Mr Dunsmore forecasts. He added: "It would be naive to think Bass would be vulnerable to change. Dis-integrated, with Bass Brewing and Bass Retail with its additional hotel and catering interests floating apart, I believe we would see the most successful brewer and successful retailer in the UK industry."

Such a massive pull-out from brewing by three out of the industry's big six is likely to signal a direct entry into the UK industry of

foreign brewers. Allied under licence brews Castlemeine XXXX for Mr Alan Bond's Bond Corporation which logically might then take over the Allied brewing interests.

A similar licensed brewing arrangement could mean Holland's Heineken taking over Whitbread brewing. Grand Metropolitan brews under licence for Elders, Carlsberg and the United States-based Anheuser-Busch which is the world's biggest brewer with Budweiser its key brand. Anheuser is believed to have strong ambitions to move into the EEC market by establishing a full-scale presence.

● The high price of lager is not justified by production costs.

● The variation in wholesale prices between regions of the country is excessive.

● Consumer choice is restricted because one brewer does not usually allow another brewer's beer to be sold in the outlets which he owns; this restriction also often occurs in loan-tied outlets.

● Consumer choice is further restricted because of brewers' efforts to ensure their own brands of cider and soft drinks are sold in their outlets.

● Tenants are unable to play a full part in meeting consumer preferences, both because of the tie and because the tenant's bargaining position is so much weaker than his landlord's.

● Independent manufacturers and wholesalers of beer and other drinks are allowed only limited access to the on-licensed market.

In summary, we believe the complex monopoly has enabled brewers with tied estates to frustrate the growth of brewers without tied estates.

The monopoly does the same to independent whole-

salers and manufacturers of cider and soft drinks.

It keeps tenants in a poor bargaining position and stops a strong independent sector from emerging to challenge them at the retail level.

We believe also that, over time, the monopoly has served to keep the bigger brewers big and the smaller brewers small.

These are serious public interest detriments. Since significant growth in the num-

The monopoly has served to keep the bigger brewers big and the smaller brewers small

ber of full on-licences issued is unlikely, we believe structural changes are essential to secure a more competitive regime which will in turn remedy the detriments.

We recommend not the abolition of the tie but a ceiling of 2,000 in the number of on-licensed premises, whether public houses, hotels or

any other type of on-licensed outlet, which any brewing company or group may own.

This ceiling will require the divestment of some 22,000 premises by United Kingdom national brewers. (No regional or local brewer reaches the 2,000 ceiling.)

We do not believe United Kingdom property or capital markets will have any difficulty in absorbing the change; we are recommending a maximum of three years for the divestments to take place.

We recommend also that when on-licensed premises are sold there should be no product-tying covenant precluding them from being used as public houses.

We recommend the elimination of all loan ties. Those in force should be allowed to run their course. We intend that this measure should restore a substantial measure of genuine freedom to the "free" trade.

It should force competition at the wholesale level on to prices, discounts and quality of service, and should permit the emergence of a more

flourishing independent wholesale sector.

In order to improve the market opportunity in the tenanted trade, we recommend that a tenant should be allowed to purchase a minimum of one brand of draught beer from a supplier other than his landlord.

We also recommend that there should be no tie whatever for non-alcohol or low-alcohol beers, nor for wines, spirits, ciders, soft drinks or mineral waters.

Given the imbalance of negotiating power, we recommend that tenancies of all on-licensed premises should be brought within the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 Part II.

We also recommend that the Director General of Fair Trading negotiate a revised Code of Practice to be incorporated into each tenancy agreement of premises still subject to a tie in respect of the supply of beer.

We recommend that brewers should publish wholesale price lists for the on-licensed trade which set out the dis-

counts that are generally available.

Brewers should also allow beer to be collected from the brewery or depot by wholesalers at a price below delivered prices. These measures should provide greater transparency of pricing.

The majority of the MMC believes these measures will increase competition in brewing, wholesaling and retailing, encourage new entry, reduce

This measure should restore a substantial measure of genuine freedom to the "free" trade

prices and widen consumer choice.

At the same time they will preserve the good features of the present system, such as a variety of local beers available to the consumer. If no changes are made we believe it is inevitable that a very small number of brewers will increasingly dominate the

supply of beer in the United Kingdom.

Brewers have considerable influence on retail prices, both through changes in their own managed houses' retail prices and through changes in wholesale prices which lead other retailers to revise their retail prices.

Since 1979 the price of a pint of bitter in the public bars of managed houses has risen by 15 per cent in real terms, that is over and above the rate of general inflation as measured by the Retail Price Index.

By deflating nominal prices by indices which take account of general increases in prices, we have already made some allowances.

We do not consider that the average improvement in amenity in public houses has been much greater than the general improvements in retailing.

Moreover, improvement in retail amenity cannot explain increases in the wholesale prices of beer.

We consider these price increases to result from the complex monopoly.

Pubs and their beer ... from 'genius' to the whimsical

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

It was Dr Johnson who said: "There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man, by which so much happiness is produced, as by a good tavern or inn."

At present there are about 82,900 outlets with full on-licences, which are mainly public houses, plus 34,300 clubs. Many public houses are as traditional as they ever were but there has been a wave of establishments linked to a variety of themes from the colonial to the disco.

Including hotels and restaurants, there are more than 200,000 licensed premises, which is 60,000 more than 20 years ago.

There are more than 200 breweries in the United Kingdom, from large ones with a capacity up to two million barrels a year to "micro" breweries selling often through one or only a handful of pubs. There are 66 brewery companies in the United King-

dom with a line-up of more than 1,000 brands.

The brewers range from small ones such as Joseph Holt in Manchester — which has a reputation for some of the lowest-priced beers in the country — to Bass, which is the biggest.

Brands range from those known nationally as a result of their promotion on television — from the "genius" of Guinness to Carlsberg's "probably the best lager in the world" — to the whimsical, such as Sweetheart Stout from Bass's Tennent Caledonian, the Old Peculier strong brown ale from Theakstons in Yorkshire and Marston's Owd Roger and Merrie Monk.

Tennent's T beer has 50s-style pin-up girls on the cans for the Scottish market.

The big six brewers are Bass (with about 22 per cent of the market), Allied-Lyons (14 per cent), Grand Metropolitan (13 per cent), Whitbread (13

BREWERS AND THE PUBS THEY OWN

| Brewer | Total | Location | Brewer | Total | Location |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| Major Brewers | | | Regional Brewers contd/... | | |
| Allied-Lyons | 7,102 | Nationwide | Merland | 209 | Thames Valley |
| Whitbread | 6,681 | Nationwide | Hardys & Hansons | 205 | E Midlands |
| Grant Metropolitan | 6,255 | Nationwide | Edridge Pope | 180 | E England |
| Courage (Elders) | 5,399 | Nationwide | Globe Mew | 154 | SW England |
| Scottish & Newcastle | 5,000 | Nationwide | McHullen | 153 | Herts |
| Greenall Whitley | 2,300 | Scotland/NE England | Wadsworth | 155 | SW England |
| Brent Walker | 1,825 | NW England/Midlands | Hall & Woodhouse | 154 | E England |
| | 1,131 | NW England/E Anglia/London | J W Lees | 150 | Manchester/N Wales |
| Total Majors | 35,494 | | Fuller, Smith & Turner | 148 | London |
| Regional Brewers | | | Young | 146 | London |
| Marston, Thompson & Evershed | 856 | Midlands (nearly national) | Everards | 138 | Midlands |
| Wolverhampton & Dudley | 803 | W Midlands | Morrell | 133 | Thames Valley |
| Greene King | 730 | E Anglia/Herts | St Austell | 133 | SW England |
| Vaux | 580 | NE England | Brin | 128 | S Wales |
| Control Securities | 544 | National | Buckley (Guinness) | 118 | SW Wales |
| Boddington | 513 | Manchester | Gales | 92 | Hampshire |
| Thwaites | 400 | Lancashire | Lincay/E Anglia | 85 | NW England |
| Devenish | 388 | SW England | Wales | 76 | Wales |
| Robinson | 377 | NW England | Palmar | 70 | SW England |
| Mansfield | 322 | E Midlands/Humbs | Adams | 68 | SW England |
| Sam Smith | 300 | Yorkshire | Elford | 65 | E Anglia |
| Burtonwood | 282 | NW England | Mitchell | 54 | E Anglia |
| Charles Wells | 280 | S Midlands | | 50 | NW England |
| Shepherd Neame | 259 | Kent/London | | | |

E=Scotland Source: County NatWest WoodMac

per cent), Scottish & Newcastle (11 per cent) and Elders/Courage (9.5 per cent).

There are two other brewers with products selling nationally: Guinness, which brews in Dublin and London, and

Carlsberg, the Danish company which has a brewery at Northampton.

Some of Bass's best known brands are Bass ale, Charrington, Carling Black Label (Britain's best selling lager),

Tennent's and Worthington. The Allied-Lyons portfolio includes Benskins, Friary Meux, Ind Coope, John Bull, Skol lager and Tetley.

Grand Metropolitan has Watneys, Mann, Truman,

Websters and Ruddles. Whitbread's better known brands include Whitbread ales, Wethered's, Flowers, Fremantle and Mackeson, while those of Scottish & Newcastle include McEwan's, William Young-

er's, Kestrel lager and Newcastle Brown.

Elders, with Courage, have brands ranging from Foster's, the Australian lager, to John Courage, Hofmeister lager and John Smith's.

Regional brewers include Wolverhampton and Dudley, the Vaux group, Marston, Thompson and Evershed, Greene King and Greenall Whitley. Smaller local brewers range from J. A. Devenish in the West Country to Adams in East Anglia and Youngs in London. There are offshore brewers in the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, the latter having four brewers.

The typical British public house has more than 16 draught and packaged beers on offer, more than double the number found on the Continent, according to the Brewers' Society, the trade organization.

Competition in retailing has grown, according to the Brewers' Society. The society has pointed to a 35 per cent rise

since 1967 in the number of on-licences, which are mainly public houses, and a 73 per cent increase in the number of off-licences. Yet at the same time the number of public houses owned by brewers has reduced, accounting for 55 per cent of on-licences against 78 per cent in 1967.

Off-licences account for about 17 per cent of beer sold, the rest going through on-licence outlets, mostly public houses but including hotels and some restaurants.

Of the on-licence sales of beer, 56 per cent passes through the brewers' facilities, usually known as the tied or tenanted estate. So tied public houses account for 46 per cent of all beer sold.

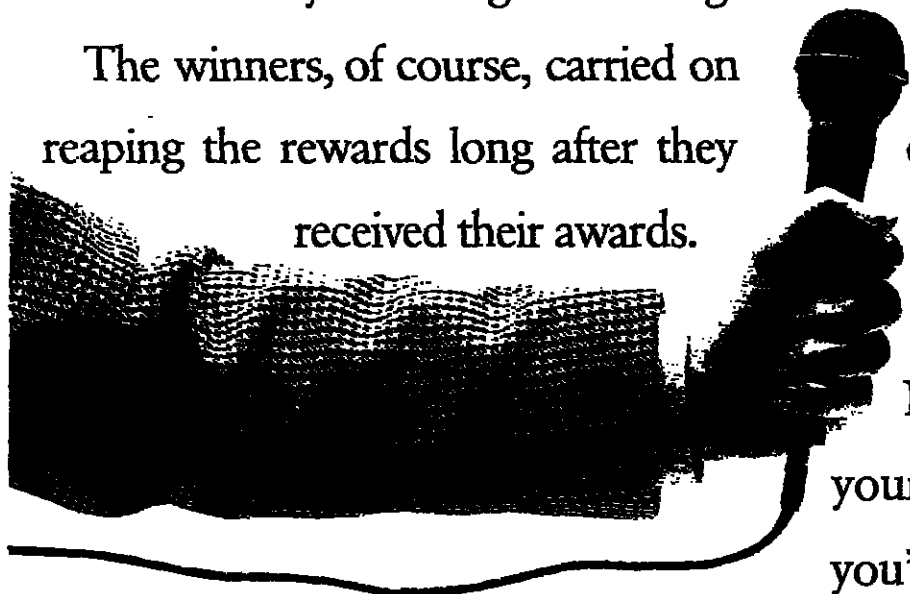
Public house beer is 1.7 times more expensive than buying in an off-licence, but the houses also offer improved facilities provided by £3.2 billion invested by the brewers since 1981, with a further £800 million a year planned over the next three years.

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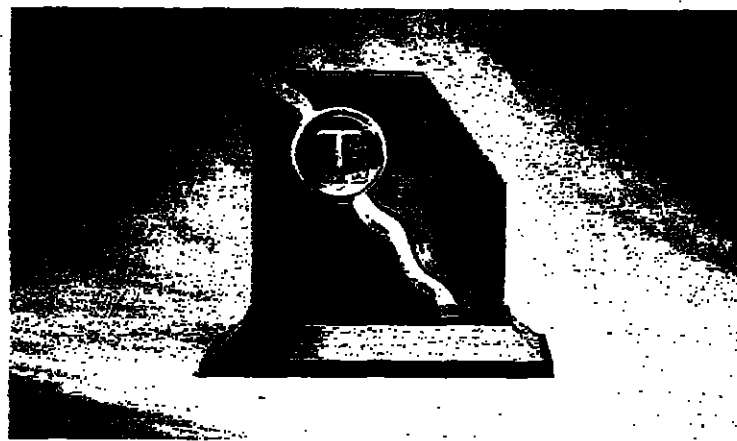


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Ridley lets drilling start on nuclear waste disposal mine

By Staff Reporters

The Government gave its blessing yesterday for test drilling to begin at Sellafield and Dounreay, for a mine deep enough to contain most nuclear waste generated until the middle of the 21st century.

However, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, indicated in the House of Commons that he had granted permission for exploration work only. By deciding not to give Nirex, Britain's radioactive waste body, a "special development order" by-passing local planning procedures, he strove to distance the Government from the controversy that has surrounded the issue of nuclear waste disposal.

Mr Ridley indicated that Nirex would still have to go through a possibly lengthy public inquiry into its eventual choice of a site. Timing may yet pose problems for the Government, since the lack of an agreed site for a repository could diminish the confidence of potential investors when the electricity supply industry is privatized next year.

The minister also released the text of a report by the independent Radioactive

Waste Management Advisory Committee, which approved the Nirex plan, provided that "in the event that neither site proved suitable geologically or radiologically, Nirex would not proceed further".

Two years ago, the Government abandoned a scheme for burying low and intermediate-level nuclear waste in trenches after an outcry from the Conservative backbenches. Nirex has since made a complete turnaround: instead of a shallow dump, the agency proposes a deep repository, instead of the soft clays of the Midlands, it is looking at the hard rocks of the North. Until the repository is ready, Nirex will continue using a large trench at Drigg, near Sellafield.

Nirex has chosen two comparatively isolated sites, one on land owned by British Nuclear Fuels adjacent to the Sellafield reactors; the other owned by the Atomic Energy Authority adjacent to its prototype fast breeder reactor in Caithness.

On Nirex's behalf, the two nuclear agencies will assess whether the geology of the

areas could shield a huge underground vault containing the debris from nuclear operations, from contaminated gloves to cladding from fuel rods. "High-level" waste, very hot material resulting from reprocessing nuclear fuel, will continue to be stored next to the nuclear reactors.

Nirex estimates that the repository, which it hopes will be built by 2005, will cost up to £3.5 billion, including transport links. However, it could create 350 jobs.

The prospect of additional employment was not enough to calm opposition in Scotland yesterday, where the Atomic Energy Authority must apply to the Highland Regional Council for permission to drill. If it refuses, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, is virtually certain to give the go-ahead.

Mrs Winifred Ewing, SNP MEP for the Highlands and Islands, was critical. "Scotland must tell Nirex with one voice that if it tries to turn Caithness into the UK's nuclear dustbin, we will fight every step of the way."

A glimpse of Roman Britain

LUCK YOUNG



Susan Smith (left), an excavator, dusting off the remains in a Roman coffin while Mrs Carole Hancock watches. The coffin is owned by Mrs Hancock and was found on her land.

By Andrew Morgan
The lid was taken off a rare Roman lead coffin at St Albans, Hertfordshire, yesterday to reveal the skeleton of a man thought to have been a wealthy townsman who died in the third or fourth century.

The coffin was found three weeks ago in the garden of a detached house to the south of the Roman city by officers from the Verulamium Museum, run by St Albans District Council.

The man, about 6 ft tall, is thought to have been a Christian because the coffin is covered with imprints of shells, a Christian symbol. Constantine, crowned emperor at York, brought Christianity to Britain in the early fourth century.

A few years ago a child's coffin with a lead lining, surrounded by tiles, was found at St Albans, the third largest town in Roman Britain. However, all lead coffins, until the latest find, had been unearthed only in Kent and in London.

The body revealed yesterday was covered with a chalk-like substance. Archaeologists will dust it away carefully in case items such as buckles are hidden in it. Bone specialists are being brought in and samples will be sent for radio-carbon dating.

The coffin is owned by the couple, Mr and Mrs Hancock, in whose garden it was found. At first there were reports that they might sell it to a museum but they have decided to give it to the Verulamium on long-term loan.

Ramblers fight for access in water Bill

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

Water companies will face mass trespasses by thousands of ramblers unless the Government amends the Water Bill to guarantee the public free access to remote areas.

The warning of a repeat of the confrontations of the 1930s when armies of gamekeepers grappled with walkers on the moors and dales of northern England was delivered by the 145,000-strong Ramblers' Association and accompanied by guarded support from the Labour Party.

It came at a Westminster press conference hours before the Bill selling the 10 water authorities returned to the floor of the House for its final Commons stages, which should be completed immediately after Easter. Today Labour will seek to amend the Bill to strengthen rights of access when the industry's 500,000 acres pass into private hands.

Mr Benny Rothman, a veteran of the 1932 clash with the Duke of Devonshire's men on Kinder Scout in Derbyshire, said the public would not accept any loss of its freedom to roam across the country. His remarks were endorsed by Mr David Beskin, the Ramblers' water campaigner.

Letters, page 15

Scepticism over Blake sketchbook

William Blake's psychic powers failed the experts at Christie's yesterday, when bids for the sketchbook he filled while in a supposed trance stopped at £450,000, which was short of the reserve price. Having broadcast an estimate of £500,000, the auctioneers were left with a chilling reality: it had failed to sell.

Part of a project dreamed up by John Varley, a lesser artist intent on tapping Blake's legendary powers, the book contains drawings of northern towns and Blake's memorable 49 visions of dead warriors, saints, poets and murderers, including Thomas à Becket, Mary, Queen of Scots and Jack Sheppard, the highwayman.

Having sold for five guineas at Christie's in 1864, it had gone underground until recently when an anonymous owner approached the auction house. The sketchbook will now be returned to him.

"It is an extremely esoteric thing, quite strong meat for a lot of people", Mr Anthony Browne, the Christie's expert, said. "It just narrowly failed to sell". He refused to speculate on how bids might have gone had the book been split into separate lots.

There was general scepticism among the trade about the closeness of Christie's estimate to their reserve. "Had it been estimated at £500,000 to £600,000, you would have expected it to sell against the

SALEROOM
by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

reserve," one dealer said. In terms of miscalculation, the flop was reminiscent of when Turner's "Cicero at his Villa" failed to sell last July.

Christie's are to test the market with another major oil painting by Turner, this time with the modest estimate of £4 million, on April 14. Entitled "Fort Virnieux", it is a classically atmospheric Turner. The estimate compares with £6 million for "Cicero at his Villa".

The rest of the British drawings and watercolours sale went outstandingly well, with only three per cent unsold. Top price was £33,000 (estimate £15,000 to £20,000) for William Callow's painting of the Rialto Bridge in Venice, paid by the London dealers, Hazlitt, Gooden & Fox. An atmospheric night picture by Francis Danby reflected the glory from his exhibition at the Tate Gallery when it sold for £17,600 to Agnews (estimate £2,500 to £3,500).

The Science Museum made an important acquisition at Sotheby's when the London dealer, Philip Whyte, bid £165,000 on its behalf for the hitherto unrecorded seventeenth century "Prague" table clock.

Poverty gap is widening and baby deaths high

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Poverty in Britain is becoming more widespread and more acute, the National Children's Home said yesterday.

The gap between the rich and the poor is widening. Twelve years ago, the top 20 per cent of households had five times the annual income of the bottom 20 per cent. Now top households have seven times that income.

Poverty and ill-health are inter-related, the organization says in its annual review of child welfare. "The health of the nation's children shows itself to be stubbornly attached to class and income. It is hard to be optimistic about a society which seems to be bent on exposing the already disadvantaged to further hardship and danger."

The number of perinatal and infant deaths among unskilled working families is nearly twice the rate among social classes one and two.

The United Kingdom has higher rates for infant mortality than other comparable European countries. Yorkshire has the highest incidence, with 10.1 deaths per 1,000 live births. East Anglia has the lowest figure — 7.8 per 1,000.

Homelessness and poor housing have also increased. The number of households in temporary accommodation has more than doubled in the past three years from 12,000 to 25,000, and the number in bed and breakfast accommodation has trebled.

One in five boys aged 15 and one in 10 girls drink above safety limits. British children spend £70 million a year on cigarettes and the number of solvent-related deaths has more than doubled in the past six years.

Children in Danger: Facilité 1989 (National Children's Home, 85 Highbury Park, London N5 1UD; free).

Poor wiring practices seen before rail crash

A British Rail assistant signal engineer said yesterday that he had seen bad wiring practices at Clapham Junction A signal box — but had not told the supervisors who were responsible.

Mr James Lippett, aged 64, told the Clapham disaster inquiry at Westminster Central Hall that staff reorganization meant he had taken over a job previously done by two men — one of whom was responsible for supervising the signals supervisors — six months before the train crash in which 35 people died.

Mr Lippett said he was not happy at the reorganization and that it allowed him to spend only 10 per cent of his

time out of his office at Wimbledon.

It was soon after taking over his new position, as a signal works assistant engineer, that he saw wiring which had not been cut back and tied up in accordance with instructions on a visit to Clapham Junction A signalbox, where a loose wire caused the disaster on December 12. He admitted he did not act on his observation because he considered them to be safe, "if not done in the correct way".

Mr Lippett added that he had five supervisors under him but had no reports on their ability and standards of work to guide him when he took over his job in June last year.

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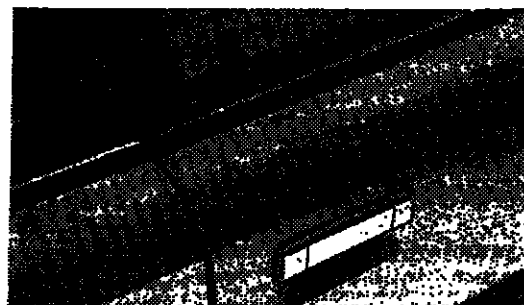
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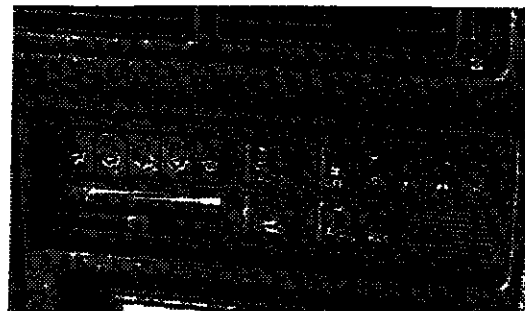


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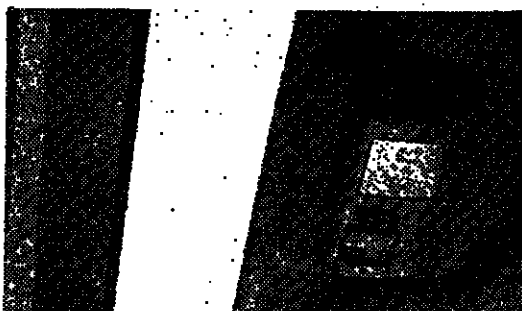


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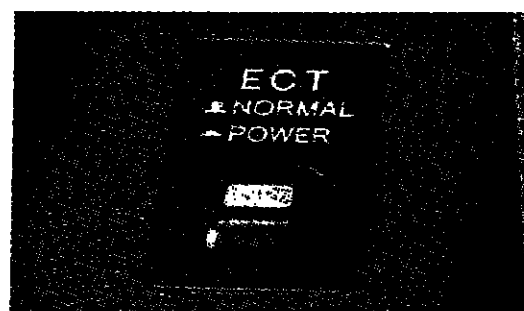
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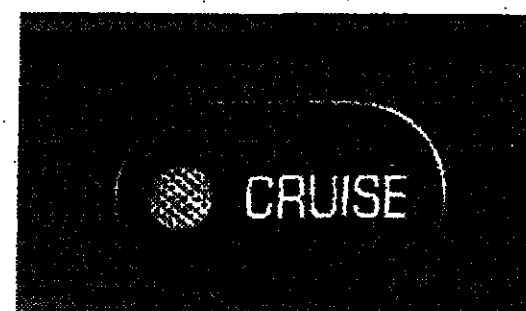
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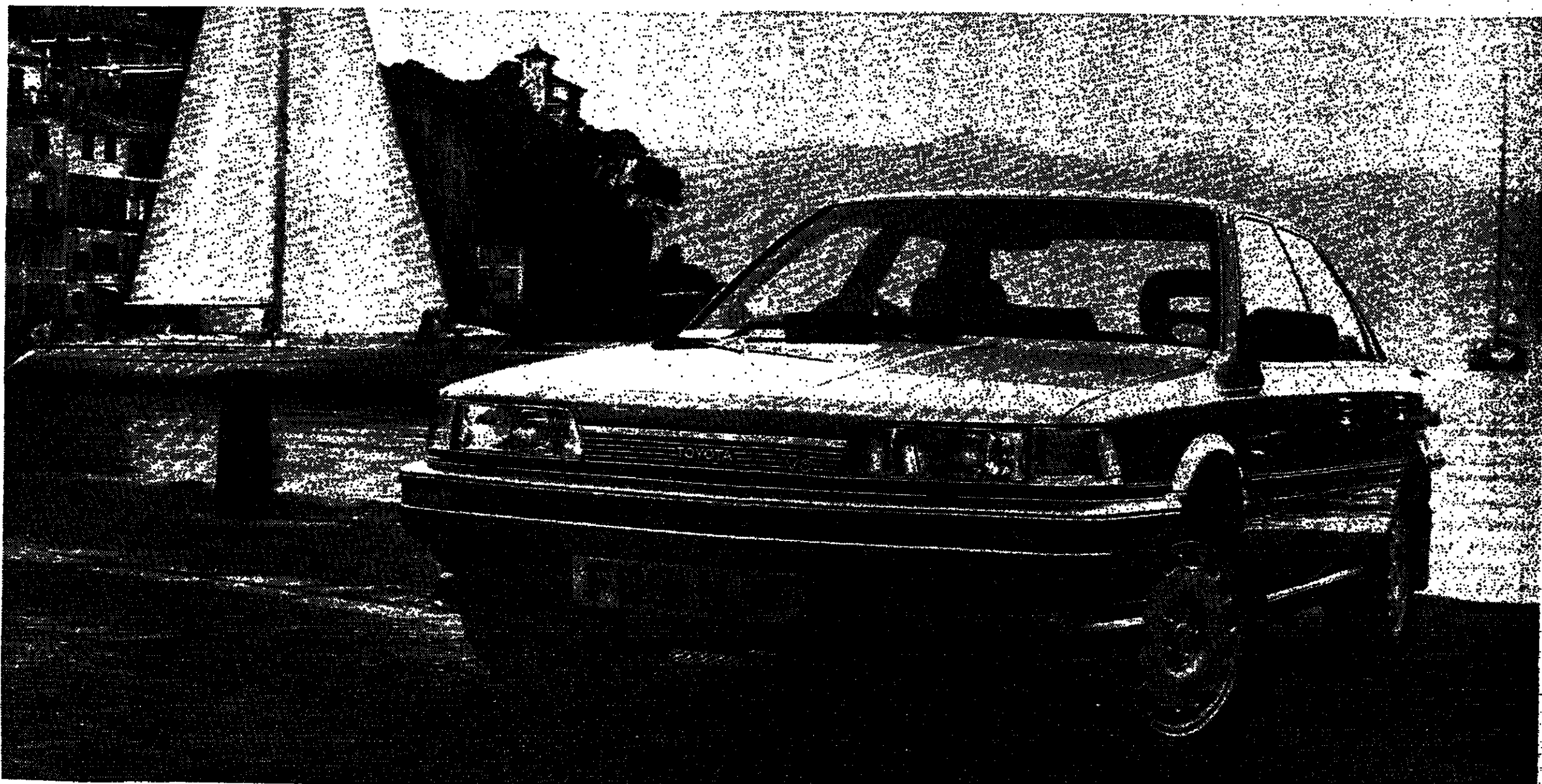
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Howe's trip to Pakistan cut amid Rushdie fears

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

A visit which Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is to make to Pakistan next week has been curtailed amid fears of further protests over Salman Rushdie's book, *The Satanic Verses*.

Sir Geoffrey arrives in Islamabad on Monday and will leave the following afternoon. Plans to travel to Peshawar and visit the border with Afghanistan have been dropped. Instead, he will fly to Madras and spend a day there before flying to Delhi.

The Foreign Office has not confirmed that the change of plan stems from fears for his safety, but Whitehall sources do not deny that there is little apparent reason for him to go to Madras. The trip appears to be mainly a way of filling the time which had been set aside for the Peshawar visit.

The sources refused to say whether there had been any threats against Sir Geoffrey's life from Pakistanis angered by the Rushdie affair. But after the bloody riots in Rawalpindi last month over the book, the Foreign Office is thought to be anxious not to cause Miss Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, any further embarrassment.

But Pakistani sources said they understood that Sir Geoffrey was leaving out Peshawar because he had been there before and wanted to spend more time in Islamabad.

Sir Geoffrey is expected to meet Miss Bhutto on Monday and to stress Britain's support for Pakistan's return to full democracy last year.

He will also hold talks with the president of the Mujahidin government-in-exile, Professor Sibtghatullah Mujadidi. In India, Sir Geoffrey will underline the big improvement in relations following years in which links were strained over the suspected role of Sikhs resident in Britain in supporting the assassins of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, in 1984. He is expected to hold talks with Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister.

In talks with Mr Narasimha Rao, the Foreign Minister, he will point out Britain's high success rate in arresting and imprisoning British Sikhs charged with offences. India has long sought a formal extradition treaty, but despite protracted negotiations no compromise has been found.

Sir Geoffrey will also visit Bahrain and Qatar before returning home on April 1. ● Nicosia: Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister, said yesterday an EEC decision to allow member countries to send ambassadors back to Iran, in the wake of the Rushdie affair, underscored the strength of Islam (AP reports).

State-run Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the minister as saying that EEC countries withdrew ambassadors from Iran on February 20 because of "lack of understanding of Islam, Muslims and the Islamic faith".

But, he added, Ayatollah Khomeini's "very important" edict, urging Muslims to kill the author and "the strong backing" of the death sentence by Muslims made the EEC "return to realism".

"In the EEC, there is (now) a kind of... realization of the importance of Islam, Muslims and the sanctities of Islam," Dr Velayati was quoted as saying. "We reiterate that the (Iranian) Foreign Ministry is not

only the defender of the Islamic Republic of Iran, but also will defend the interests of Islam on the international scene," he said.

● DHAKA: About 50 people were injured as Muslim protesters fought running battles with riot police in central Dhaka yesterday during a general strike called by Islamic parties demanding the execution of Salman Rushdie (Ahmed Fazi writes).

Young fundamentalists carrying anti-Rushdie banners stoned public vehicles and forced shops to close during the six-hour stoppage which disrupted life in the capital and six other big cities.

Protesters seized a US embassy vehicle and set fire to it in central Dhaka. At least 12 people were arrested.

The strike was called by the Ulama-e-Keram, a body of senior Muslim clerics, and backed by six Islamic parties including the biggest, Jamaat-i-Islami, which opposes the seven-year-old Government of President Ershad.

On Monday, General Ershad appointed a hardline associate, General Mahmudul Hasan, to the Interior Ministry, indicating a tougher stance against the fundamentalists.

Homage paid to the dead of Sharpeville

Pretoria assurance to fugitives

From Ray Kennedy Johannesburg

Four black political fugitives who have taken refuge in the West German Embassy in Pretoria were assured by the South African authorities yesterday that they could leave without fear of arrest.

Brigadier Leon Mellet, the official spokesman for Mr Adriaan Vlok, the Minister of Law and Order, refused to say, however, if orders restricting their freedom were under consideration.

Sources at the West German Embassy indicated that the fugitives would not be forced to leave the premises.

The four were among hundreds of blacks detained without trial under the state of emergency who launched a wave of hunger strikes in prisons throughout South Africa in February.

The four men who have taken refuge in the embassy were among a number taken to Hillbrow Hospital in Johannesburg to recover from their hunger strike.

They were supposed still to be under police guard, and their escape from the hospital on Monday is said to have enraged Mr Vlok. The West German Embassy has a high wall and guarded gates, but the four had no difficulty entering.

According to Brigadier Mellet, release orders for three of the four, Mr Mpho Lekgoro, aged 24, Mr Job Sibole, aged 21, and Mr Clive Radebe, aged 28, were signed last week by Mr Vlok. A release order for the fourth man, Mr Ephraim Nkoe, was signed yesterday, he said.

Lawyers for the four said yesterday that there had been no indication that release orders had been signed by Mr Vlok.

Miss Priscilla Jana, an attorney, said: "The four acted out of utter desperation. They didn't know where to draw the line, how long to wait before giving up hopes of their release."

In Durban, police smashed barricades thrown across streets in black townships surrounding the city as militants tried to enforce a work boycott to mark the anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre. On March 21, 1960, police shot dead 69 anti-apartheid demonstrators in the town and wounded 180.

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Go-ahead for Soviet troop cuts

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

President Gorbachev yesterday signed a formal decree to cut the Soviet Union's armed forces by 500,000 men in 1989-90 and reducing defence spending substantially. Tass reported in Moscow.

The move, which has been approved by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the highest state body, orders the Government to carry out the cuts announced by Mr Gorbachev in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly in New York last December.

Tass said that Moscow was taking the steps "to bring the armed forces into line with present Soviet military doctrine, giving a more defensive nature to their organizational structure". The agency said that the goal was "maintaining the country's defence capability at the level of reasonable and reliable efficiency and continuing to scale down defence spending".

It gave no figure or percentage for the cut in defence spending and there were no other details about the military budget. But in his UN speech, Mr Gorbachev spoke of reducing weapon procurement by 19 per cent. Then, in January, he announced that overall military spending would be cut by 14.2 per cent.

Although the reductions have been welcomed by the West, it has always been impossible for Nato experts to gauge the real level of Soviet military spending because of Kremlin secrecy.

The US Central Intelligence Agency has estimated the Soviet Union's defence spending at about 17 per cent of gross national product, which would mean an annual expenditure of about \$390 billion (£228 billion). At that level, a cut of 14.2 per cent would mean a reduction of \$55 billion (£32 billion).

According to figures in the Soviet budget, defence spending has been fixed at 20.2 billion roubles (£20.2 billion) for the past three years, but Soviet officials admit this does not include the cost of military production by the civil sector or research and development and weapon procurement.

Under glasnost, Soviet officials have pledged to disclose the full amount publicly. Yesterday's decree also bound local governments to "take the necessary measures to provide employment and housing for those discharged from military service in connection with the cuts". In January, Mr Gorbachev said that 200,000 of the 500,000 soldiers to be cut from the total armed forces of about five million would be taken from the eastern sector, the Soviet area closest to China.

He said 240,000 would come from the European part of the country, and the rest from the southern borders. The Kremlin is also pulling out 50,000 men and six tank divisions from Eastern Europe. Those withdrawals are scheduled to start next month.

The Kremlin has also disclosed that some bases which held medium-range nuclear missiles are to be converted to handle intercontinental ballistic missiles, as allowed under the superpowers' Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Shamir denies PLO talks report

Jerusalem — Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, denied yesterday that a military intelligence report presented to the Cabinet had said there was no alternative to talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization (Richard Owen writes). But other government sources in the Likud-Labour coalition said that versions of the report which were leaked on Monday were "accurate or not complete".

Israeli troops imposed a curfew on 7,000 residents of Gaza city and cut off their water and electricity in a bid to force youths to return automatic rifles stolen from soldiers. A Palestinian from a refugee Gaza camp yesterday stabbed an Israeli to death in Tel Aviv and wounded two others before being shot and captured.

Boeing blast kills 10

Sao Paulo (Reuters) — At least 10 people were killed when a Boeing 707 cargo aircraft exploded in mid-air yesterday and crashed into a slum near São Paulo International airport, an official said. She reported that the three crew members and at least seven people on the ground were killed in the accident. The Transbrasil aircraft, en route from Manaus to São Paulo in perfect visibility, had sent a radio message to the control tower requesting an emergency landing.

Platform for Yeltsin

Moscow (Reuters) — *Moskovskaya Pravda*, the Moscow Communist Party newspaper accused of bias against Mr Boris Yeltsin, the Kremlin rebel, yesterday printed his parliamentary election programme alongside that of his official backed opponent in Sunday's poll, Mr Yevgeny Brakov. Mr Yeltsin, ousted as Moscow party leader in 1987 for saying that *perestroika* was proceeding too slowly, is under investigation for allegedly deviating from the party line during the campaign. He was later to meet workers at the Zil car plant in the capital, which is managed by Mr Brakov.

Test missile explodes

Washington — An unarmed Trident 2 missile exploded just above the surface yesterday after being fired from the submerged US submarine Tennessee off Cape Canaveral, Florida (Motsin Ali writes). It was the weapon's first test at sea. The Navy said that a malfunction "caused it to veer off course and self-destruct after four seconds of flight".

China's tough budget

Peking (Reuters) — In a tough budget speech yesterday, Mr Wang Bingjian, the Chinese Finance Minister, promised higher wages to millions of disgruntled urban workers — and new taxes to pay for them. He said that the country would have another budget deficit in 1989 for the fourth consecutive year and the tenth time in the past 11 years, and gave a warning that the deficits were fuelling inflation.

Havel term reduced

Vienna — A Czechoslovakian appeals court yesterday reduced from nine months to eight the prison term imposed on Václav Havel, the playwright, and reduced his offences, arising from a demonstration to mislead the press (John Holland writes). One charge was dropped. A decision on whether to free him because of ill health is pending.

Praise for mistress

Athens (AP) — Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, speaking about his much-criticized love affair for the first time, said that Mrs Dimitra Liani, his 34-year-old mistress, was a source of life for him. "She is my invaluable companion," Mr Papandreu, aged 70, said in an interview in the Greek edition of the magazine *Marie Claire*.

Shells kill five in Beirut siege

Beirut (Reuters) — Lebanese Muslim forces exchanged artillery and rocket fire with Christian gunners across Beirut yesterday after imposing a siege on the Christians.

Security sources said that at least five people were killed and five injured in the Muslim western part of the city by the latest round of artillery duels which have raged for two weeks.

Local radios said the fighting started along the Green Line dividing the west from the Christian east and shells and rockets fell on residential areas in both sectors.

Christian radios said that 10 shells fell on the port of Beirut in the eastern sector and others hit the coast road running from east Beirut to Christian areas in the north.



Christian leaders accused Syria of having ordered a blockade of their territory which cut supply routes for food and fuel. Security sources said that roads to the Christian enclave — east Beirut and the hills and coastal area north of it — were shut, leaving it with Jounieh port as its only link with the outside world.

The security sources said the shelling of the coast road caused a car accident in which three people were killed and two injured. They said another four people were wounded in east Beirut.

"All the crossings were shut by a decision from the Syrian occupying force," a military spokesman in east Beirut said. The action was in line with attempts to partition Lebanon into sectarian mini-states. Syria, the main foreign power broker in Lebanon, has about 25,000 troops in the country.

Political sources said that the Muslims were retaliating against a sea and air blockade imposed earlier this month by Major-General Michel Aoun, the Christian army commander, on illegal ports serving militia fiefdoms.

● UN soldiers killed: Three Irish soldiers of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon were killed by a mine explosion while on routine patrol of frontlines in the south yesterday (Juan Carlos Gumucio writes).

Reports said that their vehicle drove over a mine near the village of Braasheet, on the edge of the strip occupied by the Israeli Army.

The identity of the soldiers will not be announced until their next of kin have been informed. According to unofficial records, 30 Irish soldiers have died while serving with the UN force in Lebanon since its establishment in 1978.

Exiled Chun 'to testify' after secret deal

From John Gittelsohn, Seoul

The decision of President Roh of South Korea to postpone a referendum on his regime because of fears that it would bring chaos and undermine democracy. His decision was a blow to hardliners in his own camp who hoped that it would give him a mandate to crush labour unrest and student demonstrations which they say threaten stability.

Mr Chun fled to exile in November amid outrage over the repression and corruption of his seven-year regime. He has refused three subpoenas to testify. At next month he will give written testimony to the National Assembly hearings.

Mr Roh's agreement with opposition leaders also reportedly calls for prosecution of several senior members of his party who played key roles in the Chun administration.

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Old comrade forces González on to the defensive

From Philip Jacobson Madrid

For the first time in an eventful six years in power, Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, finds himself squaring up to a political heavyweight whom he cannot intimidate.

For the first time, too, the Socialist leader can no longer be sure that the affectionate relationship with the people which has guaranteed him support across party divisions at awkward moments will do the trick again.

The one man Señor González did not want in the opposite corner was Señor Nicolás Redondo, his Socialist mentor and fellow *clandestino* in the anti-Franco days, then head of the party's trade union, the UGT, which helped him into power and ensured his re-election.

A rugged and experienced political fighter, Señor Redondo resigned from Par-



Señor Redondo: Campaign for a policy U-turn.

liament to campaign against his old comrade and has already taken out the ground on which he seeks to force the Government into a U-turn: a profound change of priorities that will extend the benefits of the booming economy to the have-nots at the expense of those coining money in what he denounces as a Thatcher-style society "based on egoism and the untrammelled pursuit of profit".

The opening exchanges have certainly gone against Señor González. Perhaps unwisely, the Prime Minister gambled his personal standing on the outcome of a general strike called by the UGT and other unions three months ago. Some eight million Spaniards, two-thirds of the work force, gave him a resounding thumbs-down by staying at home.

With unions threatening more unrest, experts who predicted that Señor González would cancel a third term whenever he felt like calling an election — the summer of 1990 is the deadline — are having second thoughts.

The question now is whether he has what it takes to respond to the challenges emerging as Spain enters a decisive phase of what one commentator calls "its democratic apprenticeship". As some observers see it, Señor González could be forced into an early election, despite polls suggesting that support for the Government has dipped below the 40 per cent mark about which his absolute majority becomes vulnerable.

With more than a year in which to improve the party's tarnished appeal, his strategists argue, why take unnecessary risks with the electorate? Even conservative politicians concede that a government pitched somewhere between the Socialists and the centre probably suits most Spaniards best.

What Señor González certainly understands, however, is that the impressive consensus which welded the country together so successfully during the testing decade after Franco is being redefined in the approach to the 1990s.

However averse they may be to political activism, the Spanish feel entitled to a bigger say in the way they are governed. As for the celebrated *concertación social* — the centralized agreements on (low) pay and conditions reached between unions, employers and government — Western Europe's star growth economy has simply outgrown a once invaluable system.

With profits soaring ahead of growth in wages, with unemployment officially at almost 20 per cent, workers are in no mood to moderate demands to a Socialist Government installed by their votes.

On this sensitive issue, Señor González is both defensive and tough. He observed: "My problem is not that there are rich people, but that there are poor people." He might well have added that the indolent gusto with which the former flaunt their wealth could hardly be more damaging to his Government. Every gossip column carries breathless accounts of the champagne and caviar life-

style of "the beautiful people", a good many of them members of the Socialist establishment.

The latest and most riveting scandal concerned a proposed banking merger which Señor González was moved to hail as "possibly the economic event of the century".

THE RUSHDIE AFFAIR

A seminar on *The Implications of the Rushdie Affair for Muslims in Britain* will be held at the Logan Hall, Institute of Education, Bedford Way, London WC1, on Saturday, April 1 1989, at 2.30 pm. The keynote speech will be given by Dr Kalim Siddiqui.

Details from: The Muslim Institute, 6 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DS. Tel: 01-388-2551.

Trek to North Pole across a desolate moving ocean of ice

From Robert Swan
Cape Adrich, Canada

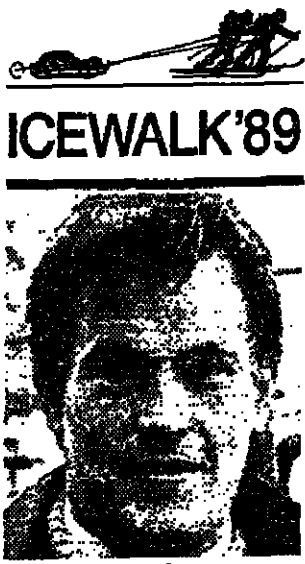
I feel that numbness descending again, like a blanket, as it did when I walked away from Robert Falcon Scott's hut and headed for the South Pole.

It is like a recurring nightmare. Here I am again, almost three-and-a-half years later, facing another desolate expanse of ice, this time in the treacherous Arctic near Cape Adrich, on the northernmost tip of Canada.

In two days my seven companions and I will take our first steps north to the Pole. After years of airports, hotel rooms, lectures and endless fund-raising, it is sobering to think we have still made it only as far as this lonely point of departure.

Now the real journey begins. The team has shown great resourcefulness and willingness not only to work together but also to overcome the many language and cultural barriers. I am sure this unity will prove our main strength in times of difficulty.

This is a large and com-



Robert Swan

licated expedition — a burden which occasionally makes me long for the simplicity of the three-man South Pole journey. Without radios and with limited supplies, that, in some respects, was much easier. There was no choice; we either made it, or we died.

New York — The international ice-walk team led by Robert Swan, the British explorer, was battling across 40 ft walls of pack ice yesterday on the second day of its trek to the North Pole (Charles Bremner writes).

The eight men, each on skis and pulling a 150 lb sled, left their base camp at Cape Adrich in northern Canada early on Monday. Swan reported by radio that he was encountering ice conditions more treacherous than expected. It is breaking up earlier than usual.

The expedition is devised as an international effort to focus attention on the environment. It involves some 30 schoolchildren from around the world who are being flown to the base camp in Eureka where they will monitor progress and perform their own experiments.

The expedition members are Rupert Summerson (UK, deputy leader), Dr Mikhail Malakhov (Soviet Union), Darryl Roberts (US), Arved Fuchs (West Germany), Hiroshi Onishi (Japan), Graeme Joy (Australia) and Angus Cockney (Canada).

Swan is reporting exclusively to *The Times* once a week until he reaches the Pole, probably about May 10. This is his first report, sent just before he set out.

This time there are eight of us and more equipment, more supplies and perhaps less haste. The conditions are very different. Beneath us will be a moving ocean of ice; it can open up, it can melt; it is diabolically unpredictable. We are carrying radios giving

humoured team. For many of us the moment of departure has been almost too long coming. I just want to get on with it.

I know Rupert does too. We met nine years ago, sharing a ship's cabin during my first journey to Antarctica. I tracked him down again in 1988 and asked him to come north as the expedition's navigator and deputy leader. He has given up three years of his life, resettled in Australia, travelled extensively, worked tirelessly. I trust him.

Graeme, the first non-British member of the team, is technically very strong and brings great energy to the group.

Darryl has come a long way for a New York kid from the Bronx. The Pole could not be further from home, and he knows it. He has had some shocks already: a taste of frostbite to his right foot; discolouring frostnip in his face.

Hiro is the most wonderful character. Here is a man who was on Everest last year, is now off to the Pole, and when

he returns will scale Everest again. He thinks of nothing but new challenges. Hiro loves a good joke, but is meticulous in his preparations.

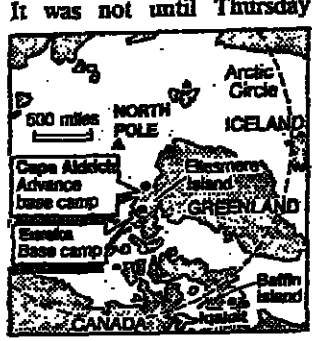
Gus, the most recent member of the team and a native Inuit (Eskimo), makes most of us feel like buffoons on planks of wood. A former Canadian cross-country ski champion, he has an astounding ability to tackle the cold. As an Inuit he understands the importance of not only gaining the Pole for himself but for his people. He has also helped to give this expedition a better understanding of Arctic survival.

When I met Arved in Hamburg he unfurled a huge map on the floor, launching straight into a discussion of the pros and cons of this expedition. He is tall and bearded. I knew instantly I had met one of that rare breed of professional explorers.

It is hard to imagine that only a week ago, during training in Igloolik, this team was in chaos, shuffling equipment from one warehouse to another and all the while

sewing zips, tabs, pockets and flaps to every article of clothing in sight, with little or no sign of the discipline and co-ordination needed. But by the time we came to leave they seemed to pull together almost effortlessly.

Our aircraft broke down in Resolute, delaying departure. It was not until Thursday



evening that the old 748 lumbered up the runway. Crammed to the bulwarks with men and equipment, it lurched into the sky, banking over Igloolik and the last tentacles of Arctic civilization. We flew into the northern night, stopping to refuel in Resolute. Continuing to En-

reika, the payload was transferred into two twin Otters for onward shuttle to advance base — a pack of wolves on sole welcoming party.

And now the time has come. Ahead lies a huge indomitable wall of solid pack ice. The cold has gripped us, vice-like; even the sun appears frozen. The weather does not look good. Darryl's frostbite continues to bother him. We have heard that Sir Ranulph Fiennes turned back. Poor bloke, he has tried three years in a row.

Despite all the difficulties, not one member of the team appears afraid, or excited, or that matter. You cannot feel anything. Because if you do, it is going to hurt like hell.

You cannot walk to the North Pole carrying the baggage of everyday life.

I have the most incredible determination to succeed, for the kids, for the environment, for my family, for my supporters, for me. There is no other option. I quite honestly do not want to come back if we don't get there — that is the way one has to think.

Television confession to adultery

Hawke weeps over past sins

From A Correspondent, Sydney

Mr Bob Hawke, Australia's Prime Minister, has admitted in a tearful television interview to being unfaithful to his wife. Responding to questions about his alleged womanizing, Mr Hawke admitted that he had committed adultery.

With tears welling in his eyes, he went on to pay tribute to his wife of 33 years, Hazel, as an "incredible woman" and said his infidelity had stopped.

The most extraordinary point about the confession is that Mr Hawke made it at all, as his private morality was neither a public issue nor a secret. An authorized biography by Blanche d'Alpuget acknowledged that Mr Hawke



Mrs Hawke: The admission was "hardly new" to her.

used to be a womanizer and a heavy drinker. Nor was the Prime Minister under pressure. He often tries to intimidate reporters by snapping at them when asked awkward questions, but his interviewer this time attempted no more than a conversation.

The timing is also curious. Cynics who sniff an election in the wind suggest that Mr

Hawke might have been drawing on crocodile tears to appeal to women voters as an honest, fallible man not afraid to admit his sinful past. But hundreds of outraged women called radio phone-in programmes yesterday to protest that by making his infidelity public Mr Hawke had demeaned his office and humiliated Mrs Hawke.

Surveys have indicated that women voters were already streaming away from the Labor Party.

The interview was due to be broadcast last night, but the text was released in advance. In it Mr Hawke told Channel Seven in Sydney that he remains successful because he has a wonderful rapport with people. "I love people," he said. "I have a love affair with Australia."

Mr Hawke was asked what people meant when they accused him of being a womanizer. "They mean," he replied, "I was unfaithful to my wife."

"Is that true?" he was asked by the interviewer, Clive Robertson. "Yes."

The interviewer skipped the obvious question of when Mr Hawke said that his wife understood that infidelity was "part of a pretty volatile, exuberant character, and she knew my love for her had never changed."

He brushed away a tear when he described her as an incredible woman he had met at the age of 17. "I guess there are not many women who would have put up with me all that time," he added.

On alcohol, which he has also given up, Mr Hawke said:



Mr Hawke wiping away a tear during a Sydney television interview after admitting adultery.

"I was never an alcoholic in the sense that I could not work. I always worked hard."

The moment of truth, he said, came in a laboratory. "I was having a wee, as a matter of fact, not a time I normally

get into profound things, but it was getting to the stage where at the end of the day I was looking forward too much to a drink. I thought that was pretty unintelligent."

Labor Party colleagues are

declining comment. But a statement from the Prime Minister's office said that Mrs Hawke, who is recovering from facial cosmetic surgery, was not concerned. "This is hardly news to her," it said.

US will link Salvador aid to rights record

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

US policy on El Salvador has been thrown into confusion by the election of the right-wing Señor Alfredo Cristiani to succeed President Duarte.

The Christian Democrats' defeat could lead to a re-examination of Washington's stance and the imposition of restrictions and new conditions on its aid, which keeps El Salvador's budget afloat.

Señor Cristiani's election is regarded as a possible setback for the US policy of building up the political centre in a country torn by the extremes of left and right.

But to a large measure, the new President is an unknown, and American policymakers hope he may not turn out like other right-wingers who have abused human rights. The State Department said: "Our relationship with the new Government will depend on its adherence to democracy and respect for human rights."

White House and State Department officials say that Señor Cristiani should be given an opportunity to demonstrate a respect for rights before decisions are

made about future US aid, which has totalled \$3.2 billion (£1.87 billion) since 1981, much of it military. El Salvador now receives about \$1 million a day from the US, 80 per cent of the total income.

Señor Cristiani, a coffee baron, said that he has assured US officials of his commitment to human rights, despite his party's past image and links to death squads.

He called on all his country's political parties to unite in the search for peace and prosperity and "of course, eliminating violence and human rights violations."

US congressional observers emphasized that the election was free, fair and honest. The State Department said the Salvadoran people braved violence and terror by left-wing guerrillas to vote. "We are prepared to support the person who emerges from that democratic process," it said.

Mr Tony Coelho, the second-ranking Democrat in the House of Representatives, said that he had told leaders of Señor Cristiani's party, the Nationalist Republican Alli-

ance (Arena), that El Salvador "would have serious problems getting any type of economic or military aid" if human rights abuses increased.

The important question was "can Cristiani really be the President, or will D'Aubuisson run the Government?" Señor Roberto D'Aubuisson, the party's founder, was once described by a US ambassador to El Salvador as a pathological killer with direct involvement in death squads.

Congressional nervousness was also reflected by Senator Mark Hatfield, the senior Republican on the appropriations committee, who wants to hold back half the military aid for six months to see how the new Government handles human rights.

Senator Christopher Dodd, the chairman of the foreign relations sub-committee on Latin America, warned that if the new Government "begins to turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to the re-emergence of death squads and human rights abuses by the military," he would introduce resolutions to restrict US aid.

Man in the News

Cristiani, master or puppet?

From Tom Gibb, San Salvador

Señor Alfredo Cristiani, El Salvador's President-elect, is said to enjoy a game of poker with the founder of his Arena party, the former Major Roberto D'Aubuisson. After Arena's crushing defeat of the governing Christian Democrats on Sunday, the stakes will be higher than ever.

In a party renowned for a violent past, Señor Cristiani ("Freddy", as he is widely known) is seen as a moderate. He is a millionaire businessman and coffee grower who studied at Georgetown University in the United States and speaks perfect English. A former motocross champion of El Salvador, he is also an expert squash player and a keen helicopter pilot.

He is fluent, moderate and convincing in defending his right-wing party's image to the press. More than anyone else, he represents the "new Arena". The question is whether it is the real Arena.

The party was founded in the early days of the civil war, when it looked as if the left-wing guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front were on the point of a revolutionary victory.

Major D'Aubuisson, a senior military intelligence officer, left the Army in 1979 after a coup by reform-minded

officers, claiming there were communists inside the military. He formed Arena after his own coup attempt failed.

But military officers and party security guards both say he continued to work in conjunction with former colleagues in a "dirty war" against the rebel organizations. Thousands of suspected rebel sympathizers were murdered.

When Arena controlled the National Assembly for two years from 1982, security guards working there say that a mini-arsenal was set up on the second floor, from where death squads operated.

Señor Cristiani did not come on to the scene until after Major D'Aubuisson was defeated in the 1984 presidential election by Señor José Napoleón Duarte for the Christian Democrats. Major D'Aubuisson claims he won the election but the US put pressure on the military establishment to stop him taking power.

Since then Arena has changed its image. Señor Cristiani became presidential candidate in 1985, and has set out to win America over. "I have made frequent trips to the US," he said, "and I consider I have made a lot of friends there."

In the past, US officials

have always portrayed President Duarte as the only alternative to the extremes of both left and right. But now, with Señor Cristiani, they are changing their tone, seeing Arena as broad-based. "He's Arena's Duarte," one US official said.

Others believe that he is just the clean face of a party that has not really changed. President Duarte's former private secretary, Señor Gerardo Le Chevalier, said: "You cannot turn a pumpkin into an apple or a tiger into a cow. Freddy was chosen as a mask for a monster. Like all masks, he is totally plastic."

Señor Hernán Torres, a former Arena security guard who left the organization last year, commented: "I cannot say anything against Cristiani, but it is D'Aubuisson who controls. He is the top leader. Cristiani does not go to the meetings when they are planning things."

But Major D'Aubuisson says he will not take a government position. Both leaders have promised to hold talks with the rebels, and Señor Cristiani has promised to improve human rights. "We know in international terms some people see us as bad," he said. "But they are wrong, and we will show them."

Bermuda hanging prevented

Hamilton (Reuter) — Sir Desmond Langley, the British Governor of Bermuda, has intervened to prevent what would have been the first hanging in the Caribbean territory for 12 years.

He made the decision to spare the life of Troy Shorter, aged 25, who denies killing a store owner, less than six weeks before Parliament debates capital punishment.

Secrecy move

Washington (AFP) — Senior US officials informed Japan that the Administration wants restrictions on the use of American technology in a joint fighter plane project.

Satellite ban

Singapore (AFP) — The Singapore Government is to ban the sale and installation of satellite television dishes for receiving foreign broadcasts.

Plea for priest

Taipei (AP) — A 100-strong Taiwanese crowd rallied outside the embassy of the Holy See to call for the return of the Rev Neil Magill, an Ulster priest deported for alleged involvement in unions.

Pavia victims

Pavia (Reuter) — Italian rescue workers found the bodies of two teenage girls near the site of a collapsed medieval tower, bringing the death toll to four.

Surgery death

Nantes (AFP) — A short circuit in a French surgeon's power scalpels is believed to have caused a fire which burned alive a retired farm worker during a hip replacement operation.

Algiers strike

Algiers (AP) — Post and telephone workers went on strike here over pay and conditions.

Mujahidin give ground at Jalalabad

From Anatol Lieven, Peshawar

The Afghan Mujahidin attacking the city of Jalalabad appear to have given ground, abandoning under heavy bombardment some of their recent gains around Jalalabad airport, east of the city.

The Government in Kabul is claiming to have reopened the Kabul-Jalalabad road. But the Hezb-i Islami of Maulavi Yunis Khalis, which took responsibility for guarding the road two weeks ago, says it holds a 12-mile stretch and that no government convoy can pass.

Since Jalalabad airport is closed to transport aircraft because of Mujahidin firing, the Government depends on the road to supply the garrison. The Mujahidin failure to launch an offensive to capture

its entire length at the same time as their offensive against the city is seen as an important strategic mistake.

Instead, they maintained the traditional policy of rotating responsibility for guarding the road between the various Mujahidin parties, no single one of which is capable of standing up to a determined government offensive.

The sloping match around Jalalabad has advantages and disadvantages for both sides.

The government troops are pressed back into a smaller area, and are thus more vulnerable to Mujahidin artillery and rocket fire. This is inaccurate, but if fired often enough at a relatively small area it can hardly be failing to exact casualties. The morale of

the government forces is considered much lower than that of the Mujahidin.

The Mujahidin, on the other hand, have little experience of this kind of sustained bombardment without the possibility of escape. When I visited their front line last week, signs of strain were evident.

Bombing by the government pilots, however, was extremely inaccurate, partly because of poor training but also because they were flying high for fear of Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.

The number of these in Mujahidin hands is low, since the US cut supplies six months ago. A struggle appears to be going on in Washington about the res-

umption of supplies, since the Bush Administration is committed to a Mujahidin victory.

Around Jalalabad in recent days shrapnel or council of commanders, have apparently been attempting to redefine responsibility for the different sectors around the city, in an attempt to avoid a repetition of the lack of co-ordination which crippled the initial offensive two weeks ago.

Some observers conclude that a Mujahidin victory, even in Jalalabad, may be postponed indefinitely.

MOSCOW: The Soviet Union said yesterday that Mujahidin who seized temporarily several army posts near Jalalabad were beaten back by government troops, and had lost 400 men.

Chance for Hong Kong's Governor to answer his critics

By Mary Dejevsky

When the House of Commons foreign affairs committee opens its inquiry into Hong Kong today, special attention will be paid to the evidence of Sir David Wilson, the Governor of the colony.

Two years into the job, he is facing what Hong Kong commentators describe as a crisis of confidence — in the future of the colony under Chinese rule and in his own performance as Governor.

Evidence that Hong Kong is in crisis is far from conclusive. Last year it registered a record budget surplus. There is an acute shortage of building workers to maintain the frenetic pace of capital construction. A new hotel has attracted staff by offering a five-day week for the first time. Whatever the doom-watchers say about speculators who will make hay while the sun shines and sell out well before the Chinese takeover, the economy is, to all appearances, flourishing.

The incipient crisis is seen rather in the number of people emigrating or wishing to leave, the potential shortage of trained professionals,

and the creeping influence of mainland China on many areas of business activity. Rumours abound about the extent of mainland corruption finding its way into the colony: the banquets and presents that Chinese businessmen have come to expect and receive.

The fragmentation of political opinion in Hong Kong, which is debating progress towards more democratic government, is also seen as a sign of impending crisis. If the people cannot agree what they want in the run-up to 1997, it is argued, they will be in no position to resist if Peking tries to impose conditions they do not like.

Inevitably, perhaps, it is the professional groups, often educated and trained in Britain, who find the outlook most bleak and who are most eager to find a scapegoat. They find it in the Governor, whose success in defending Hong Kong's interests when they conflict with those of China leaves, in their view, a great deal to be desired.

Who does he represent, people ask — the British Government, the people of Hong Kong, or even Peking? That such a question can

be asked reflects the complexities of the transitional period. In the past it would have been assumed that he represented the interests of Hong Kong, and that those interests coincided with those of Britain. China's interests were neither here nor there.

Since the Sino-British Agreement, however, that has changed. Britain, many would say, has an interest in keeping China happy.

Hong Kong (AFP) — The RAF's 28 (Army Co-operation) Squadron yesterday celebrated 40 years in the Hong Kong garrison with a display by six of its eight Wessex helicopters. Two police platoons were flown in a simulated operation against illegal immigrants.

The people of Hong Kong, who need guarantees that their present way of life will continue after 1997, need a doughty defender. Peking needs a Governor strong enough to ensure the post has weight when it becomes that of Chief Executive in 1997, but not so strong as to complicate the transition.

When Sir David's appointment

was announced early in 1987, it was welcomed enthusiastically in Hong Kong. His Foreign Office background, it was argued, would ensure him respect in Whitehall; his experience and knowledge of China, where he served as ambassador, would smooth relations with Peking; and his experience of, and sympathy for, Hong Kong would be the best possible guarantee that its interests would be upheld.

Two years later he has become persona non grata among the very people who greeted him so warmly, and the same arguments are turned against him. His Foreign Office pedigree is blamed for a penchant for quiet compromise; experience of China for excessive deference to the Chinese; and sympathy for Hong Kong for his perceived tendency to heed the business lobby rather than calls for democracy.

The criticism which clearly hurts him most is that he has been reticent in Hong Kong's defence. Britain has chosen to keep confidential its contributions to the Joint Liaison Group — which oversees the implementation of the Sino-British Agreement — nor will

it condemn China openly for acknowledged shortcomings in the draft Basic Law. The Chinese Government, by contrast, has put judiciously timed leaks and public statements to good use.

The British view is that, given China's disposition, more can be obtained behind closed doors than with megaphones. Whether or not this view is correct, it leaves Hong Kong with the impression that China can flout the rules — and this does nothing for confidence in the colony's future after 1997.

There is a view in Hong Kong that Sir David is more beholden to the Foreign Office than a Governor should be. The fact that he has come to London to testify to the foreign affairs committee on the same day as Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, suggests that the problem of his perceived status may have been recognized. But there is also a problem of manner. Sir David is a Foreign Office man of scholarly bent, not the flamboyant colonial governor some think would be more suited to the job.

Subdued attention to detail may be just what Hong Kong needs at

this point in dealings with Peking. But to many it has sent a signal that Britain is concerned above all to "manage" the handover, as a textbook problem of diplomacy.

His role in helping to negotiate the agreement encourages the belief that he has a personal interest in making it work — on Peking's terms, if necessary. To the disappointment of the democracy lobby, he does not see it as part of his role to lead a crusade for parliamentary democracy.

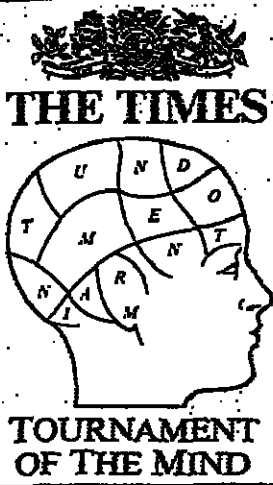
On one issue only has he been praised for his recent handling of the Vietnamese refugee question. His insistence that Western countries accept more refugees and that enforced repatriation be considered has convinced Hong Kong people that, on this at least, he is championing their interests — though they add that pressure from China, which does not want to inherit the refugee problem after 1997, doubtless helped.

But as long as a groundswell of opinion senses that the Governor is following, rather than leading, the pressure will mount for him to change his style or code his post.

March
presco
MPs dem
briefing
Keep RI
Labour enter

SPECTRUM

Tournament of the Mind



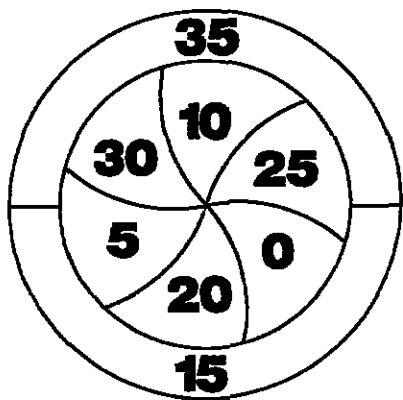
● The Times Tournament of the Mind enters Round Eight today, with contestants all over the world locked irretrievably into the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and *Collins English Dictionary* (the two main reference sources), and unlikely to emerge before the contest ends on April 5, when details of how to enter will be given.

● For the individual winner the prize is £5,000; for the winning school, a Hewlett Packard personal computer. The questions are designed by Mensa to test not only your logic and mathematical ability, but also your general knowledge.

1 DIAGRAMS

Score 5

Here is a new-style dartboard. As in a normal game you have three darts but you have only eight segments. The idea of the game is to score exactly 40 points. You can land in a segment any number of times but each dart must score. When a group of numbers has been used it cannot be used in a different order. If every dart scores, how many ways are there of attaining 40?



2 VERBAL Score 4

Follow the riddle and find the word. My first is in HORSE yet not in CART, my 2nd is in HALF but not in PART. My 3rd is in ICE but never in COLD and my 4th is in TELL but not in TOLD. My 5th is in BELL, not in RING, and my 6th is in BIRD and not in WING. My 7th is in SPEARS and also in DARTS. My whole has saved many a soldier his heart. What is the word?

3 LOGIC Score 6

If STAFFORD is 12 miles away, LONDON is 8 miles away and DOVER is 6 miles away how far away is PORTSMOUTH?

4 MATHEMATICS

Score 6

A car travels a distance of 25 miles at a constant speed of 45 miles per hour. It covers 30 miles for every gallon of petrol used and has a total tank capacity of 4 gallons. It has developed a leak from its petrol tank, however, and will cover only 25 miles before its tank is empty. How much petrol does it lose per hour?

MISCELLANY

Score 9

1. What is the other, non-scientific, name for the Manta Ray? (Score 2)
2. What was the full name of the person who devised the decimal catalogue system used in libraries? (Score 2)
3. What is the highest peak in Japan? (Score 2)
4. What instrument is used by Australians and has a wax mouthpiece? (Score 1)
5. What is the next number in this series? (Score 2)

8 23 53 113 ?

ROUND 8 - ANSWERS

Cut out your answers and keep this coupon until Round 20. Answers will be accepted only on coupons printed in *The Times*



PUZZLES

Answer 1

Answer 2

Answer 3

Answer 4

MISCELLANY

Answer 1

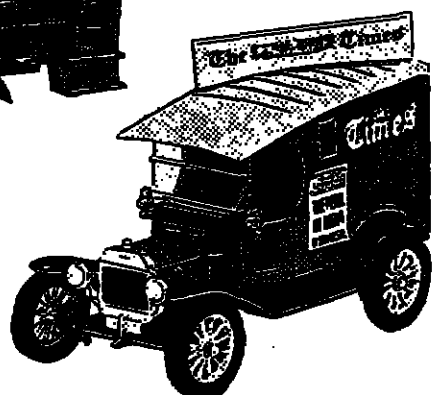
Answer 2

Answer 3

Answer 5

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There is more than lead in exhaust fumes, Michael McCarthy and David Rowan report



Test drive: analysis shows that an average car, over an average mileage, pumps more than half a ton of pollutants into the atmosphere every year

A sting in the tail

Any reader of last week's headlines could be forgiven for thinking that Nigel Lawson's 1989 Budget, boosting the price advantage of unleaded petrol, had solved the problem of car exhaust fumes. This is far from being the case. Lead, enemy of children even in the womb, is not the only nasty consequence of internal combustion.

Three other major pollutants spewing out of the tailpipe of your car cause extensive damage to human health, to plant life, and to the atmosphere itself. They are carbon monoxide, peroxide of people with breathing problems; oxides of nitrogen (known generically as NOx gases), which give an added sting to acid rain which is ruining lakes and forests all over Europe; and hydrocarbons, the unburnt residues of petrol which combine with NOx to produce an even worse pollutant.

To get an idea of how much carbon monoxide, NOx and hydrocarbons an average car produces, *The Times* took a common car - a 1980 Volkswagen Golf GTI - to a laboratory where its emissions were analysed and measured.

The results indicated that over 13,000 miles (a typical annual mileage), the car would produce about 78lbs of hydrocarbons, 50lbs of NOx, and 1,056lbs of carbon monoxide. That is a total of 1,184lbs, slightly more than half a ton of pollutants.

One of the best solutions to this problem - the three-way catalytic converter - is a British development. However, the British Government is not enthusiastic about it.

The catalyst (as it is known) is a black ceramic honeycomb-like structure, about the size and shape of a flattened loaf of bread, coated inside with rare metals such as platinum and rhodium. When incorporated in the exhaust system of a car, it encourages carbon monoxide, NOx and hydrocarbons to react against each other, so that they are virtually eliminated.

Catalysts have been fitted to all

new cars in the United States for nearly 15 years, yet until 1988 were unavailable in Britain, despite the fact that the world leader in their production is a British company, Johnson Matthey, of Royston in Hertfordshire. The reason for this was that the coated working surface of the catalyst is ruined by lead. While British cars ran on leaded petrol there could be no catalysts. This objection will gradually cease to apply.

Many believe, not least the governments of the United States, Japan, Australia, West Germany, The Netherlands and Denmark, that this remarkable piece of British technology is the next logical step after lead-free petrol. However, the British Government prefers an alternative technology: lean-burn engines.

These increase the proportion of air to petrol burnt in the combustion chamber from 15:1, to as much as 22:1. If conditions are ideal, they do achieve fuel economy and reduce exhaust emissions. The Government favours them over catalysts primarily because the domestic British motor industry, in particular Ford and Austin-Rover, believe British motorists will not pay more for cars fitted with the device (catalysts need to be installed during manufacture, fitting them afterwards is possible, but unsatisfactory). Secondly, some government automotive scientists feel

that the delicacy of the catalyst's system reduces their effectiveness as time passes. Thirdly, lean-burn will enable the Government to meet its present requirement, the European Community vehicle emission standards for medium and small cars, which will be applied in Britain over the three years from October 1990.

But lean-burn will not allow the Government to do any better than meet that requirement, as many environmentalists would like. And if the EEC standards for small and medium cars were tightened to approach the much stricter American standards - as could still happen - lean-burn engines, Department of Transport officials admit, would be inadequate: only three-way catalytic converters could do the job.

Pressure groups are now pursuing standards which are stricter than the present EEC norms. "We want what is technically feasible, not what is easy and financially painless for the motor industry," Fiona Weir, air pollution campaigner for Friends of the Earth, says. "We would like the American standards; the EEC directive for small cars doesn't go nearly far enough."

Concern about the pollutants arises from the fact that carbon monoxide (CO) is a health hazard. It inhibits the blood's absorption of oxygen and can aggravate chronic respiratory and

cardiac problems, such as angina. The World Health Organization's recommended atmospheric limits for CO are regularly exceeded in London.

NOx gases, mainly nitrous oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2), pose risks for people with breathing difficulties, and react in the atmosphere to produce nitric acid, which falls to the ground as acid rain. Acid rain attacks soil and trees and watercourses; it has destroyed the fish in thousands of lakes and rivers in Norway and Sweden and even southern Scotland, and devastated forests in Germany and Central Europe. Motor vehicles account for 40 per cent of the NOx emissions in Britain.

In sunlight, NOx gases also react with the third pollutant, hydrocarbons (HC) to produce ground-level ozone, another killer. While stratospheric ozone, the hole and threatened layer of the gas that surrounds the earth at very high altitude, is beneficial because it shields us from the sun's harmful ultra-violet rays, ozone in the lower atmosphere down to the ground, is malignant.

It was a principal constituent of the smogs of Los Angeles; and in the last 10 years it has been recognized as a pollutant that can damage trees and crops as seriously as acid rain. It is also a "greenhouse gas" - a contributor to the potentially disastrous warming of the world's atmosphere.

To establish the ability of a three-way catalyst to reduce these pollutants, we repeated the first trial we had conducted at Johnson Matthey's Catalyst Test Laboratory in Royston, this time on a new German Golf GTI fitted with the device. The reductions were dramatic. Over the same average annual mileage, calculations showed that the car produced 7lbs of hydrocarbons (instead of 78lbs), 8lbs of NOx (instead of 50lbs) and 30lbs of carbon monoxide (instead of 1,056lbs). The total was 45lbs instead of half a ton. And that is the essence of the argument.

The fancy dress parties

Continuing our survey of the 1980s
Part Five: Politicians - The Race for Pullover



CRAIG BROWN

Throughout the decade, the love of dressing up exerted a strong influence on politicians of every persuasion. After 10 years of Conservative rule, it became apparent that back-benchers were growing weary to get their hands on the marvellous array of uniforms and costumes that were the traditional preserve of ministers.

It had been Michael Heseltine who, early in the 1980s, had set the political agenda in the firm direction of oddball couture. Parading the open spaces of the English countryside clad in a Jean Paul Gaultier free-fitting combat jacket, he became the sartorial figurehead for all budding young Conservatives. With the 1983 general election under-way, even the most obscure Tory back-benchers seized the opportunity to be photographed wearing a variety of miner's helmets, goggles, protective overalls, RAF dungarees, association T-shirts, often all at the same time.

The 1987 general election saw a marked trend towards politicians donning the white coats of scientists. Thus equipped, they would effect entry into micro-chip establishments, there to be photographed hob-nobbing with captains of industry at the forefront of modern technology. To this day, directors of television commercials for household disinfectants have found it cost-effective to employ a cross-section of back-benchers, all capable of providing their own costumes, to act as the white-coated boffins in the background.

Everyday fancy dress tended to vary from party to party. Before the outcome of the 1987 election, members of the two centre parties liked to sport the heavy woolies favoured by deep-sea fishermen and breakfast television competitors. When this strategy came undone, Dr Owen forsook the woolly for the man-of-destiny suit, leaving Mr Paddy Ashdown to pick up the threads. "I want to see greater freedom in this Fair Isle of ours," he declared to the 1989 Liberal Assembly.

After a decade in which they had been denied access to the great costumes of government, Labour Party members began to protest. In a single week in March 1989, for instance, Mr Austin Mitchell was filmed wearing a red Oscar Wilde-style floppy bow tie to the BARTA awards ceremony, while Mr John Prescott, ramming home his attack on the Government's transport record, was pictured in *The Times* dressed entirely in rubber.

Among ministers, there was a daily clamour at the official Fancy Dress box. Envy of Mrs Edwina Currie, who had managed to scoop the most favoured Doctors and Nurses costumes, supplementing them with pantomime props such as 6ft cigarettes, kept fit cycles and medical machinery with moving graphs, reached such a height that she was soon forced to resign. Over in the Department of Transport, Mr Peter Bottomley spent his entire working day changing from one costume to another - now a traffic cop, now a road-sweep - and in the evenings he would relax in the garb of a fully operational traffic light.

Before long the Prime Minister united the party by creating a new post of Secretary of State for Fancy Dress, with special powers to oversee all ministerial costume-changes. This new post was considered so prestigious that Sir Geoffrey Howe, wishing it to be seen that he had the necessary flair for the role, took pains to switch his customary black socks for a pair wearing rather closer to dark grey.

THURSDAY

The Times Profile:
Boris Yeltsin,
man of the
Muscovites

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LOST DEMOCRACY

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons today opens its inquiry into the implementation of the 1984 Sino-British Agreement on Hong Kong. Given the controversy that has surrounded interpretation of the Agreement in the past two years, both in Hong Kong and in Britain, the present investigation might well have been mounted earlier. Now that it is in train, however, there are two aspects which merit particular attention.

The first is the provision of British passports for Hong Kong residents. Since the passing of the British Nationality Act in 1981, British subjects in Hong Kong have been more or less reconciled to the fact that they would not qualify for automatic right of residence in Britain. There is room for different opinions on the justice of this decision, particularly in view of Portugal's decision to give full passports to Macau residents before the territory reverts to China, but there is no doubting the continuing deep resentment in Hong Kong.

It can be argued that for Britain to alter this ruling now could communicate misgivings about China's intentions towards Hong Kong and increase unease in the colony. Many Hong Kong residents would respond, however, that a change in the passport requirements is the one concession that would foster confidence in the future. People would be more likely to remain in Hong Kong during the transition, knowing that they had a refuge in Britain if necessary.

This argument is one the inquiry should take seriously. Even if they eventually reject it, they should certainly consider more generous treatment of former servants of the Crown, their relatives and others closely associated with British rule. No government taking over stewardship from another reserves any favours for those who have served the former masters. The discretionary provisions that already exist for allowing Hong Kong Civil Servants and others into Britain need to be implemented far more generously than at present, and shorn of the secrecy which has attended them.

The second subject which should be addressed in detail concerns the arrangements

agreed with China for Hong Kong's political system before and after the handover of sovereignty. In particular, the inquiry should seek to discover whether concessions have been granted to China which were not envisaged in the Sino-British Agreement.

Confusion and bitterness have been generated by imprecision in the Sino-British Agreement about elections to Hong Kong's Legislative Council (Legco). Liberal groups in Hong Kong believe that Parliament would never have approved the Agreement if it had realized that commitment to elections meant provision for "indirect elections" and "representative government" meant something more akin to the present system of nominated delegates than to parliamentary democracy.

It is probably too late for this misunderstanding to be cleared up completely. The inquiry could, however, investigate how the confusion arose and assess whether the present timetable to introduce more directly elected representatives into the Legco might not be speeded up.

There are indications that China may not be as averse to more democracy for Hong Kong as it appeared to be four years ago, and that the business community too would come around to the idea of more direct elections if it could be convinced that confidence in Hong Kong's continued prosperity would thereby be enhanced.

On the matter of democracy, however, the reaction of China and of Hong Kong's business community should not necessarily be the overriding criterion. Britain's legacy to most of its colonies, or the legacy it aspired to bequeath, has not been prosperity *per se*, but a democratic system to guarantee the freedoms that make prosperity possible — and which are taken for granted in Britain.

Somewhere along the line, perhaps because Hong Kong is reverting to China rather than gaining independence, that objective has tragically been lost. The inquiry should do its best to find out why, and then establish whether anything can be salvaged.

THE DEATH TRAP

The murder of two senior police officers in Northern Ireland on Monday — as well as being an appalling crime — had a peculiarly sinister symbolism. They were ambushed on their way back from a visit to their opposite numbers in the Garda Síochána south of the border — an activity which has become more customary and frequent since the Anglo-Irish Agreement charged the authorities in both Britain and the Republic to improve their co-operation on security matters. The IRA terrorists were therefore killing the very men who are leading the expansion of the fight to control and suppress terrorism.

Only in exceptional circumstances — such as the official report into the mass escape from the Maze prison — does the public get a glimpse of the detailed methods by which terrorists select and kill and the equally detailed secrets of preventing such things. The odds must, therefore, lie against it ever becoming known precisely how the IRA picked their victims: how they knew who the men were, and the back road route on which they could be trapped.

The question will now be asked as to whether the murdered policemen were taking an avoidable risk. Depending on the answer, the RUC may have to step up precautions or protection for those travelling by road; or to consider helicopter transport for certain areas or for cross-border journeys. At the very least, officers on such journeys should be armed, in radio contact and travelling in cars not easily

identifiable. The absence of these three measures on the journey which ended in tragedy needs explanation.

But, as always, this is not the main lesson. A police force exists to protect the freedoms of everyday life. Over recent years, life in parts of Northern Ireland has become less dominated by physical security and public precautions than it was earlier in the last two decades.

It is natural that policemen, in common with the rest of society, should start to lessen their precautions. This is not to say that the two officers killed this week were negligent. In any society gradually trying to restore normality, the risk of terrorists exploiting that change to kill cannot be ruled out.

The safety of everyday life, such as it is, depends on the men and women of the security forces taking exceptional risks with their every movement and with every moment of their lives. Two hundred and sixty police officers have been killed in 20 years of violence; 38 of them in South Armagh.

Let the last, eloquent word be with the Northern Ireland Police Federation: "Evidence of our total commitment to serving the community is in the seemingly incessant sacrifice of the lives of officers of all ranks. We look to the community for evidence of their commitment in supporting the force and to the governments of the Republic and the UK for evidence of their determination to beat terrorism."

FREEING THE HOUSES

Since the mid-1960s successive governments have produced a total of 16 reports on aspects of competition in the brewing industry. With the latest one published by Lord Young of Graffham yesterday the competition authorities seem finally to have scored a direct hit.

The different effects on industry and consumer are not yet clear. Certainly, if Lord Young implements the report fully as he appears minded to do, Britain's brewers will be blown into a completely new world. The uncertainty produced by this was vividly reflected yesterday in the share prices of the leading companies. For all the huffing and puffing of the brewers, the *pub-goer* is likely in due course to benefit.

The perennial concern about the beer market has been the system of "tied" houses under which the majority of pubs are owned by the brewers who will allow only their own beers to be sold through them. The number of tied houses, according to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, now totals 74 per cent of all pubs, three quarters of which are owned by the big six brewers.

Vertical integration is not in itself inimical to competition, nor is it by any means confined to the beer trade. Companies like ICI producing both basic chemicals and consumer products have developed that structure for good market reasons. Nor does the consumer altogether lack choice: he or she can always choose another pub if the beer or the prices at the local are uncongenial.

Yet the beer market is different in one important sense. The licensing laws severely regulate the number of new entrants to the market. An aspiring publican cannot simply set up in business when and where he likes. He has to obtain a licence — or more probably buy already licensed premises. This confines him to waiting for someone to retire among the declining number of free houses or buying whatever the brewers are prepared to sell.

The MMC response to this has been to recommend that brewers should be limited to ownership of a maximum of 2,000 pubs each. As the biggest brewers own more than 7,000 each this will transform their businesses.

As a further boost to competition, tenants will be allowed to stock one "guest" beer not

produced by the pub's owners and will be able to shop around for all non-beer drinks. To give them some modest protection against undue influence from their owners they will get greater legal protection in their tenancies. Ties in return for loans will go altogether.

As the commission itself seems to have been half aware, this is a second best solution in economic terms. Ideally entry to the market should have been deregulated by relaxing the licensing regulations. That would have allowed anyone to compete in the trade and let the forces of competition sort out the most effective structure and the best providers.

In making its recommendations, however, the commission was clearly aware that its report of 1969 came to much the same conclusion and signally failed to achieve reform. Although competition may be more in vogue now than 20 years ago, the arguments against complete deregulation of the number of licensed premises remain strong.

A ceiling on the number of pubs any brewer may own is a reasonable compromise. Logically the correct solution would have been to abolish the tie altogether. But this will give an advantage to the smaller local brewers who cannot compete in marketing with the national companies and arguably require special protection.

The brewers are entitled to feel sore at the prospect of a substantial restructuring of their business built up over many years. But the circumstantial evidence against them cannot easily be pushed to one side. Tenants would stock a wider range of beers if they were allowed to do so. Prices have risen by 15 per cent in real terms since 1979.

Lord Young now has the tricky task of persuading the European Commission that the tied house is a bad thing five years after the Ministry of Agriculture, true to its producer-lobby instincts, persuaded the Commission it was a good thing. The new Commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, should support the competitive route. Meanwhile the oil companies may well feel uneasy about the forthcoming report on petrol retailing — another subject of perennial interest to regulators. The markets for petrol and for beer have a good deal in common.

New approach to Forces recruits

From Mr Maurice Logan-Salton
Sir, The Ministry of Defence is to launch a television advertising campaign later this month to encourage Army and TA recruitment (parliamentary report, March 17, early editions).

Even without the benefits of advertisements, there is always considerable interest in the Armed Services amongst those teenagers who are either unemployed or likely to become unemployed on leaving full-time education, youth training schemes or young offender institutions.

A large percentage of potentially most suitable recruits is unable to get through adolescence without at least one criminal conviction, probably associated with excess consumption of alcohol. Under present arrangements, a youngster with a criminal record is advised that his application cannot proceed until he has remained out of trouble for a specified length of time.

May I suggest a change of policy? When the potential recruit is sent back home in such circumstances, it is likely that, bored and probably unemployed, he will have further contact with the police. Immediate enlistment would have served a variety of practical needs, and prevented further complications.

The Ministry of Defence should give recruitment officers greater discretionary powers when dealing with minor offenders, and, in a further initiative, it should scrap the deductions for food and clothing which have made the Armed Services YTS most unattractive to potential applicants. Yours faithfully, MAURICE LOGAN-SALTON, The Lodge, Llanarth, Raglan, Gwent, March 18.

Future of NHS

From Dr Michael Udall
Sir, As a GP whose prescribing costs are already 25 to 30 per cent less than the national average I feel able to reply to Dr Smith (March 13). If the proposed NHS reforms were only designed to encourage, or even impose, more economical prescribing with the assurance that all the money saved would be used directly in patient care, then few GPs would, I believe, manage more than a passing grumble.

Unfortunately there are other matters, which Dr Smith dismisses as "some proposals which should be modified", that strike at the heart of current medical practice.

One of the more important of these is the encouragement of larger GP list sizes, which will lead to less face-to-face time between patient and doctor and less inclination to fully investigate disease in the GP setting.

Doubtless few patients will really suffer, but Dr Smith is likely to get more inappropriate referrals of patients whom he will see without the benefit of preliminary basic investigations.

He might also reflect that the majority of really expensive drugs which I prescribe are prescribed at the behest of hospital doctors whose limited resources cannot stretch to out-patient prescribing: the cost of these necessary drugs devolves upon the, as yet unlimited, GP drug budget. Yours faithfully, M. S. UDALL, 85 Common Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey, March 13.

Secrets Bill

From Mr Michael Colvin, MP for Romney and Watford (Conservative)
Sir, The publishers who wrote to *The Times* (March 16) about the new Official Secrets Bill have been misled.

If the new Bill becomes law, the prosecution would have to prove that a publisher had caused a specific harm to the national interest by an unauthorised disclosure of official information and that he had reason to know he was causing that harm. The jury would decide.

At present the prosecution has to do little more than show that a disclosure occurred. At present, too, there is no defence of prior publication. In future the prosecution would have to show that further harm had been caused by the further publication. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL COLVIN, House of Commons, March 16.

'The Satanic Verses'

From Mr Khalid M. Batafai
Sir, I am glad to find out there are still people in your country who condemn Khomeini's threat against British citizens, but believe that defending the right of a person to express his own opinions doesn't mean that he has the right to offend people and hurt their feelings so aggressively, with clear intention of making profit out of it, and maybe getting the honour of being the author of a best-seller.

Lord Shawcross, Mr Bernard Levin, Mr A. G. Plint, and Mr David Green, all of them, in one issue (March 3) were of the same opinion as Sir Geoffrey Howe who described the book, *The Satanic Verses*, as offensive.

Youthful taste for scruffiness

From the Editor of British Style
Sir, Mr Rowland Gee's well-meaning letter (March 17) confuses problems of supply with today's basic problem of demand. Though you may offer good classic clothes to the majority of those below the age of, say, 40 years — and even at reasonable prices — it is doubtful they will buy them. Tastes have to change.

Degenerating behaviour standards of the last 20 years have produced in the young a defiant "manual worker" image among two generations ironically responsible for less manual work than any in previous history. And reactive contempt for the easy prosperity of the 1960s and 1970s produced in the 1980s the "outrage" fashions designed to cock a snook at previously adult standards.

Though disturbing androgynous images in the early 1980s were stifled by the advent of Aids, it also encouraged the stressed masculinity and false physiques of ill-fitted over-sizing, and a "macho" disdain for any contrived concern for appearances.

The result is the sordid syndrome of dirty denim, shapeless blouses, uncleaned trainers, and the curious self-degradation of designer stubble. Cavalcades of them may be witnessed any day in the popular shopping centre of Oxford Street. Overseas visitors, weaned on the tradition of the well-dressed Englishmen, have been at least startled, they tell me.

Privatised water

From the Vice-Chairman of the Environment Council
Sir, Sir Alfred Sherman's article (March 9) on water privatisation was a splendid exposé of the weaknesses of the Government's proposals. It carries particular weight, coming from someone who has for so long been a close adviser to the Prime Minister. It must therefore be immediately rebutted by the ever-industrious Mr Howard (March 10) to whom has fallen the unhappy task of justifying the unjustifiable. However, he is most unfair to Sir Alfred.

Mr Howard states: "We have a highly integrated, highly sophisticated water industry". Perhaps we did until Mr Ridley tore it in half and passed the bulk of its functions to the National Rivers Authority. We now just have a series of disjointed sewage and water-supply undertakings. To conceal this fact, £30 million of ratepayers' money is currently being spent boosting a national water image.

Mr Howard alleges that the Bill has been in preparation for two years and that no major con-

A 'red alert' at London Airport

From Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman, MP for Lancaster (Conservative)

Sir, A great deal has been said about the tragic air crash at Lockerbie, and the security at Heathrow on December 21, by those who were not there. It so happens that my husband and I were there, taking a BA flight to Toronto, departing at 15.15. We arrived, as usual, in good time and I have never known security so tight.

My husband's hold-all was extracted from the X-ray machine, and gone through minutely. Ill-advisedly, I smiled at him and said: "You look like a terrorist, darling". The security officer, quite properly, was furious, turned to me and said: "You shouldn't make jokes like that, madam, we have a red alert on and we're being extra careful".

Sure enough, we reached the departure lounge and had to show our passports at the plane entrance before being allowed on board.

The captain then announced: "I am sorry for this delay; a passenger has sought to board who is not being permitted to board, and we are unloading his luggage before taking off".

I was a member of the European Parliament for nine years and my husband still is. Neither of us has ever known such tight security. Yours faithfully, ELAINE KELLETT-BOWMAN, House of Commons, March 20.

Prison visiting

From Mr Leslie Jermam

Sir, In the name of humanity can something be done to relieve the lot of visitors to London prisons? At Wandsworth there is a shelter provided by the WRVS where people may queue under cover.

I have just seen a heavily pregnant woman queuing there, with two young and very active children, for an hour. Inside the prison there is a smoke-filled waiting room, with insufficient seats, where visitors wait for up to 20 minutes for admission after being searched (or asked what they have in their pockets).

Visits generally last 30 minutes. Visitors then stand in a waiting room for up to 20 minutes to be let out of the prison.

At Pentonville people queue in the street in all weathers. Conditions are slightly better at Brixton though the queue there is outside and not under cover.

The lives of many of those who visit prisoners are harsh enough. They are not the most articulate section of our society. The visitors are not there, either, to serve a sentence.

I regard the conditions under which they are forced to wait, for long periods, as an affront to a civilised society, and I am, yours sincerely, LESLIE JERMAN, Rushbrooke, Coppice Row, Theydon Bois, Epping, Essex, March 13.

Estate agents' code

From the President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Sir, In your report, "Home buyers 'being sold insurance they do not need'" (March 14), the Law Society suggests that home buyers are the victims of growing malpractices by estate agents. The society calls for estate agents to be regulated by a code of conduct which has the force of law.

The RICS, too, is most concerned about some sections of the house agency industry. It takes only a few unethical operators to undermine public confidence in the whole industry.

In January we asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs to implement a package of measures, including a compulsory code of practice with statutory backing. This is essential if the fringe operators are to be made to respect the ethical standards required by the professional societies.

The code would cover the need for an estate agent to disclose to his client all insurance commissions and other remuneration which he stands to gain from the transaction.

I welcome the support of the Law Society for the introduction of a code with statutory backing. It is time for the Government to act. Yours faithfully, DAVID YORKE, President, The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, 12 Great George Street, Parliament Square, SW1.

Oral additives

From Professor J. D. Gillett
Sir, At a hamburger bar at a certain London rail terminus I watched in amazement as one of the smartly-dressed assistants opened a packet of something with his teeth and proceeded to pour the contents directly into the apparatus that dispenses the fruit-flavoured milk-shakes.

I drew the attention of the manager to what seemed to me to be a somewhat dubious and unsavoury practice but, unlike Bernard Levin's unfortunate hamburger exchanger (March 9), I do not know if this time-saving milkshake germ injector was also sussed. I somehow doubt it. Yours truly, J. D. GILLETT, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Kepple Street, WC1.

word about the harm the book has done. May I say that for every action there is an appropriate reaction and unless we find a legitimate channel for the reaction, it would definitely find its own channel; like the flood, for example, when forced to take its own course is not always constructive. Yours faithfully, KHALID M. BATARFI (Editor), NCB Economist, The National Commercial Bank, PO Box 3555, Jeddah 21481, Saudi Arabia, March 19.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

University news

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Facts of research

Does the parliamentary research assistant have to work hard for her salary? Heather Kirby reports

Pamela Bordes is not the first person to regard the House of Commons as a useful environment for gaining valuable work experience. Some research assistants work full-time for as little as £8,000 a year but regard the sacrifice as worth it.

The research assistant's official role is to draft speeches, prepare press releases, deal with constituents' problems and feed their political masters with facts and figures on a wide range of subjects. Some may still be called researchers when they only do shorthand and typing and occasionally check something with the library.

Although the notoriety that Bordes has brought to the House of Commons researchers' role is unwelcome, the others think that if the security investigations get rid of people who know nothing about politics, then enduring the spotlight will be worthwhile.

Ruth Evans, aged 24 and single, works a four-day week from 9.30am-5.30pm and occasional weekends for Simon Coombs (Conservative MP for Swindon). She is also a local councillor at Witney, Oxfordshire, a leading light in the Young Conservatives and "maybe" will try to become an MP herself later.

Evans thinks the claim that Bordes was free to roam around the Palace of Westminster is nonsense. "People don't have time to wander, especially when the House is sitting," she says.

"Nor would she have access to the chamber or the members' bar, the journalists' bar or reception, except by personal invitation. I go to some of those but I am invited in my own right as a politician."

About 10,000 people, from elected representatives to the police and the cleaners, have 30 different kinds of passes to Westminster, 600 of them are research assistants, says Nick Kent, president of the All

Party Research Assistants Association.

They are divided into two categories: 200 are permanent research assistants who have a large "9B" stamped on their white photo identity card. This allows them to use the House of Commons library on Monday and Friday mornings before the House is sitting.

The remaining 400 are the temps, who get category 9D passes (the type with which Bordes was issued) and have to use a library in the Norman Shaw building. This is the old Scotland Yard building on the Embankment opposite Big Ben. There the 200 permanent share a room with no desks, just three tables, two

are willing to work for an MP of any party are apparently wasting their time. Other ways are by writing to an MP or to someone in the constituency association or, like Bordes, by knowing someone influential.

Gavin Davies is a 21-year-old Cambridge graduate who has been taken on as a temporary research assistant by his local MP, Gerry Bowden. He is there to help specifically with the Channel Tunnel rail link and he arrived the day after the Bordes story hit the headlines. It took just five days for his 9D security pass to come through.

Peter Day, aged 18, researcher for Emma Nicholson (Conservative MP for Torridge-Devon) got his interview because his mother went to school with Nicholson's sister who is married to the Arts Minister Richard Luce. "Emma put me through a two-hour interview. Then I expect the police put me through their computer," he says.

According to Hugh McKinney, a 30-year-old former history teacher and researcher to John Butterfill (Conservative MP for Bournemouth West), some assistants only make the tea. "If this affair makes them tighten up the system, it will be a good thing."

"A research assistant's job should be difficult to get but some MPs give out passes to people who know nothing about politics. It is a demanding job; if you don't get your facts right and your MP quotes them in public, he will get it in the neck."

"I don't know yet whether I will ever try to be an MP. We are the first generation of professional researchers brought in because of the volume of work MPs now have to do, and it will be interesting to see how local selection committees judge us."

"I am not motivated by money. My salary here is only £8,000 a year and I am massively overdrawn, but I love every minute of it."

Some MPs give passes to people who know nothing about politics

telephones and six chairs. The other 400 park wherever they can find a space.

Barbara Campbell is both secretary and researcher to Sir Geoffrey Pattie, former Minister of State at the Department of Industry. She is also chairman of the Secretary and Assistants Council, and says that the average salary of a secretary/researcher is probably £12,000, but she adds that no two MPs run their offices in the same way.

An MP receives an allowance of nearly £21,000 a year to spend on administration, which covers everything from staff salaries to typing paper and stamps.

Research assistants get their jobs either through answering advertisements in the MPs' magazine, *The House*, or by advertising themselves, although the ones who say they



Political worker: Ruth Evans may try to become an MP later

Royal discretion

Silvia, Queen of the egalitarian Swedes, thinks monarchy is making a comeback



Queen Silvia of Sweden: "Handicapped people have strength"

The Royal Academy is aglow this week, positively Ruritanian: there is a gilded coronation coach drawn by caparisoned white horses, there are banners and tapestries and 17th-century ceremonial armour.

The Royal Treasures of Sweden, 1520-1700, are visiting in an exhibition sponsored by the Swedish company Gamlestad. Beneath the Pan-European baroque you suddenly notice a sharp Nordic edge: iron visors with alarming human faces, fierce trollish figures, reindeer and black bears, Viking symbols.

The tone is imperial. One stares at all this macho sumptuousness, thinking of Sweden today: neutral, affluent, coolly reasonable, the ultimate welfare democracy and vanguard of feminism.

At a discreet house in Kensington I met a slight and smiling woman in a red leather suit: Queen Silvia of Sweden. She rarely gives interviews, but I was curious to hear her ideas on the strange alchemy of modern kingship. King Carl Gustaf and his Queen actually pay taxes, and when their first infant was born it had no gold-embroidered baldric, but Queen Silvia did become entitled to child benefit of 525 kronor (£61.75) a quarter.

More: this first child, Princess Victoria, had become Crown Princess by the time she was three, despite the birth of a younger brother, Sweden, abiding by its non-sexist principles, primly changed the constitution to allow a first-born princess to inherit.

There is yet another twist. The Social Democratic government - which has held office almost solidly since the war - is pledged to abolish the Swedish monarchy anyway. "But that, it seems, is not mentioned so often these days," Queen Silvia says, with a broad yet discreetly regal smile.

"Perhaps you should ask someone else the question about abolition of the monarchy, not me." There is clearly a certain merriment surrounding the subject in court circles. But at another

moment she hazarded the view that after years of republican thinking, the monarchy was on an upswing. "I think these things go in cycles, reactions. I think perhaps monarchy, like museums, are growing more popular."

Thirteen years ago, at the age of 29, the young King Carl XVI Gustaf ("Europe's playboy prince" to the Press) brought home his bride, Silvia Sommerlath, daughter of a West German businessman and a Brazilian mother. She was raised in São Paulo and Munich, and had become well-established in a career as a multilingual interpreter and guide.

The new Queen Silvia was, from the first, a model of slightly chilly discretion and she has worked hard at the job of being a queen. It is a formidable mixture: Latin charm and Germanic application to duty.

She has lived through difficult times for Sweden. In the early years of her marriage, and during her first pregnancy, Queen Silvia was a stated target of the Baader-Meinhof terrorist group. "It is sad to think that before 1972 the old king could go for a walk whenever he wanted it. All Europe had terrorism, but not Sweden."

Her three children, Crown Princess Victoria, aged 12, Carl Philip, 10, and Princess Madeleine, seven, are sent to ordinary schools. "People ask me, what are we doing to prepare Princess Victoria to be Queen? I say - nothing at all.

She should be a happy little girl, that is all. All three children must be treated the same."

On the table lay a book called *KOM IGEN*, and its Spanish translation, both introduced by her as part of a campaign for the disabled. I had taken Queen Silvia's interest in the disabled to be eminently suitable and non-political: a formal kind of royal social work. But she told me a story about King Carl Gustaf. "Long before we were married, he told me he had gone diving with blind children. They were not afraid, because they had been always in the dark."

"So when we married, we began the Royal Wedding Foundation to support research into sports and games for disabled people. For you must always see the strength in handicapped people, not the weakness, and you must show it to others. They have strength."

It was her longest speech and there was an un-royal urgency about it, as if here she had found a central preoccupation. The Carl Gustaf story did not sound much like the "playboy prince". "Ah," she says. "They did not know him, perhaps. We are not going to night-clubs now." It was the stern, Nordic manner. Then, the Latin grin. "All right, we do love to dance."

Libby Purves

Royal Treasures of Sweden, Royal Academy, to June 18. Closed Good Friday.

BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

Quote me ...



"I guess there are not many women who would have put up with me all that time." Robert Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister

Fair to the family?

During school holidays a mother's work may suffer, as even those with reliable childcare arrangements during term sometimes find themselves stranded. "Juggling Family and Business - a report on childcare", published by Women into Business, makes some constructive suggestions for improving childcare networks. The organization (annual membership £23 including VAT) pledges to provide a network of childcare information, is establishing a community awareness programme called "Care about Childcare" and a childcare sub-committee dedicated to lobbying Parliament. For a copy of the report send a cheque for £3 (including p & p) payable to Women into Business, at 32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HH (01-222 0330).

Hens at home

At the start of the salmonella scare, this column mentioned the Ten Hen henhouse which was the suburban dweller's way to guarantee fresh eggs daily. So many *Times* readers were keen on the concept - but didn't want to keep as many as 10 hens - that the company has developed a new Handy Henhouse for four or five hens. The henhouse costs £70, delivered free throughout England or £75 including delivery in Scotland and Wales. Details from Ten Hen, The Gables, Framingham Pigot, Norwich NR14 7QJ (05086 2453).

Victoria McKee

MUSEUM GUIDE & PASSPORT OFFER

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THE TIMES

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other ways in which the Fund contributes to the well being of those who have an hour of need. We urgently need your support to repay the debt we owe those who have suffered on our behalf. All donations will be gratefully received. We'll also be happy to advise on legacies, covenants and payroll giving. Please complete the coupon now.

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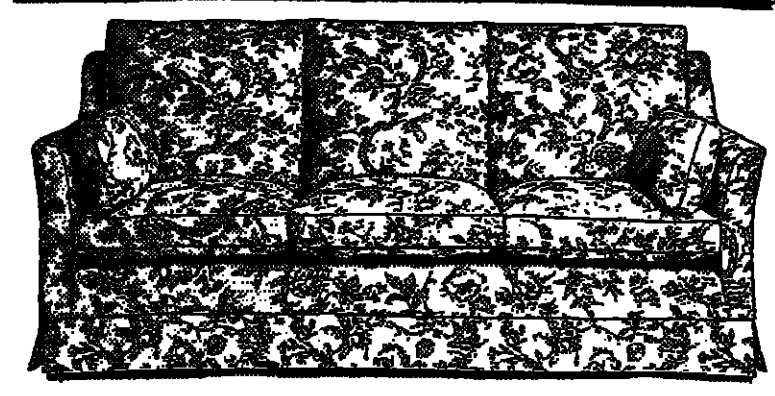
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|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Calico Sofa | \$ 675 | \$ 507 | |
| Covers | \$ 359 | \$ 234 | |
| Total price | \$1034 | \$ 741 | SAVE \$ 293 |

THE SOUTHWOLD LARGE SOFA. A timeless classic, large and luxurious. Fabric: Summer Haze, random cut.

| | LIST PRICE | EVENT PRICE | |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Calico Sofa | \$ 770 | \$ 578 | |
| Covers | \$ 414 | \$ 270 | |
| Total price | \$1184 | \$ 848 | SAVE \$ 336 |

THE HADLEIGH EXTRA LARGE SOFA. The slight touch of Colonial styling creates a comfortable bridge between a classic and a modern design. Fabric: Clarissa, random cut.

| | LIST PRICE | EVENT PRICE | |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
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WEDNESDAY PAGE

A Latin love story

Latin America regards a female writer as the mad woman in the attic, says Isabel Allende. She talks to Anne McElvoy

When she was a child, Isabel Allende wanted to be a boy because her brothers had more fun. As a teenager, she wanted to be a bimbo instead because they have even more fun. She turned to writing, she says, when it became painfully clear that she could become neither. "Deep down, I would still like to be a bimbo, but it just didn't work out like that."

She led the sheltered existence of middle-class daughters, everywhere, with the added restrictions of patriarchal Hispanic society constricting her ambition. "To be a woman in Latin America is to be a second-class citizen in every way. I was brought up to be a lady, not a writer. For most of Latin America a woman writer is just the mad woman in the attic."

After her parents separated, she went to live with her mother in her grandparents' rambling house in Santiago, which appears as the wondrous family mansion in her first best seller, *The House of the Spirits*. Her childhood was interspersed with stays abroad with her mother and stepfather, and a brief spell at an English boarding school, before returning to

Chile to work as a journalist. Her uncle, Salvador Allende, the former Chilean leader, was her substitute father. She divides her life into two halves, before and after his assassination during Pinochet's bloody seizure of power. "I am extremely proud to carry his name. It is a royal name in a sense because it speaks great hope and pride to millions of people in Latin America," she says.

She is 47, a tiny blonde with expressive brown eyes. She does not play down her fight for emancipation from a society founded on machismo.

"I had lots of responsibilities but no rights, no fun and no freedom. My daughter tells me that women's liberation is old-fashioned. She has the privilege to think like that because women like myself fought for fulfilment."

She stayed in Chile for nearly two years after the overthrow of the Allende government, but found that she could no longer hold down a job as a journalist,

her children were threatened on the streets, friends arrested and tortured.

"You have to be extremely brave to withstand that. I am not so brave. I chose to safeguard my family and leave. Chile had been a democracy for 160 years and we were not used to living in fear."

She returned from exile in Venezuela last year after Pinochet's pre-plebiscite amnesty for political exiles. Hundreds of Chileans turned up at the airport to greet her. She had feared to find her country changed or dispirited by the Pinochet years. Instead she was applauded in cafes, strangers shook her hand on the streets.

She was overjoyed at the "No" vote in last year's plebiscite on the Pinochet dictatorship. "People think dictators must be so fascinating, these men in uniforms — or is it suits they wear these days? — but you know, they are very little people."

Many of her utterances revive the Third World Marxism of her uncle's vision. She talks of chang-

ing the military, social and economic roots of Chile. She prophesies the coming of a revolution of the spirit that women will bring to politics.

"Men think that it is the goal that is important, but we know that the process is more important because it determines what the goal will be. It is like raising kids. You know instinctively that you will not produce a mellow adult if you raise the child in violence. It is the same in a country."

Mention the locally popular suggestion of her return to Chile as a politician and she shudders. "Never. I have seen it from too close. I don't think I would make a good politician because I don't agree with the pegs that they hang their hats upon."

Her new novel, *Eva Luna*, was inspired by her decade of exile in Venezuela, but also bears the hallmarks of Latin American magical realism. Meetings are fortuitous, love is fleeting, the natural world assumes supernatural meaning.

She has translated romantic novels in her time — Barbara Cartland *inter alia*. "I was appallingly bad at it. I would change a little bit of dialogue here and there, a bit at the end so that the guy would end up helping Mother Teresa in Calcutta and she the heroine would be selling weapons in Algeria... The publishers were not happy with my style of translation."

Her own life is prone to the sudden turns of fate which spin her characters in unforeseen directions. Her first marriage ended after 25 years and, shortly after, she met a lawyer on a visit to California. They had dinner, fell in love between the hors-d'oeuvres and the coffee, and she uprooted herself from Venezuela to marry him and set up home in California. "I am passionately, unbelievably happy."

She has devoted her life, she says, to stories, love and progress. "Storytelling enables us to paint the world with beautiful colours, to make the darkest of lives brighter. Stories are voices I once heard in the shadows. I just capture them and write them down."

● *Eva Luna* by Isabel Allende, is published tomorrow by Hamish Hamilton (£11.95).



Novelist Isabel Allende: "I was brought up to be a lady, not a writer"

Can fat be fabulous?

Are fat support groups agreed on the desirability of remaining rotund?

One hundred and fifty fat women (not plump, large, cuddly, voluptuous, big-boned, or well-upholstered) met in London last weekend to challenge our sense of proportion.

"For one day we were the norm — not laughed at like freaks in the street, but relaxed and joyous." That is how Ruth Teddern remembers the first conference of the London Fat Women's Group last Saturday. Teddern, aged 38, and one of the conference organizers, declares her weight as 16 stone which, when spread over a 5ft 2in frame, makes her indisputably fat. But she says: "I feel I'm in control of my life, I'm fit and I'm happy. I may not be proud to be fat, but I'm no longer going to be made to feel ashamed of it."

Liz Swinden, 5ft 9in and 15 stone, says the conference was "a celebration of liberation — from diet and from fat oppression". A health education officer, she is scathing about the fat celebrities who refused to attend. "Fat women have all too few positive role models." She cites Channel 4's American sitcom heroine *Roseanne* as the first positive television role model for fat women.

But by encouraging a more positive image of fat people are we also promoting heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and the myriad of minor ailments to which fleshy folk are prone? Fat liberationists point out that thin people can be equally unhealthy and that the National Health Service probably spends more on diseases brought on by smoking than by obesity.

Mira Dana, the psychologist who is the co-ordinator for eating problems of the Women's Therapy Centre in London, says: "Men are coming into the firing line, too. The difference is that men's sense of identity is not threatened by their weight."

The centre is a registered charity and was founded 13 years ago by the Americans Susie Orbach and Luise Eichenbaum. The centre shares the philosophy of Orbach's "Fat is a Feminist Issue", the fat liberation charter of the 1970s, that once women stop worrying about their weight they can lose the obsession with food.

Katrina Noble (5 ft 4in and about 10 stone) of the Spare Tyre theatre company, which holds workshops on eating



Roseanne: positive role model

and body image at the Women's Therapy Centre and around the country, says that when she sees hugely fat women she believes it is "a sign of emotional distress — of food filling a space where something else should be". Spare Tyre has a strong following, yet its methods, and motives, are widely different from those of the London Fat Women's Group. Self-confessed compulsive eaters, who have conquered the problem through therapy and determination, they believe other overweight women can, and should, do the same.

The London Fat Women's Group angrily refutes the implication that they weigh what they do because they eat more than other women. But Noble says firmly: "Compulsive eaters are often secret eaters, and while campaigning for bigger seats and better clothes can be psychologically healing, fat women need to deal with the problem within."

That said, Noble and Dana roundly condemn the insatiable slimming industry and a society which they believe makes the majority of women miserably self-conscious about their appearance.

We may have some way to go before the majority are convinced that fat is fabulous: two magazines launched in 1986 to appeal to more than half of the population said to be above a size 16, *Cachet* and *Extra Special*, both folded after scarcely a year. The shelves remain crammed with slimming magazines.

Alexandra King

● The London Fat Women's Group, c/o London Women's Centre, Wesley House, 4 Wild Court, London WC2.



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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Continued on page 38

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THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Price of honesty

"Big John works as a part-time short-order cook," revealed the ex-cop hidden in the back of the parked van, "as well as a leg breaker." Big John is the enforcer for the Genovese "family" in Newark, New Jersey. Someone very like him once reduced the ex-cop to a pulp. *One Man Against the Mafia* (Central) was the scarcely credible story of his revenge, which began when he saved a capo from a street beating, was invited to breakfast, and thereafter rented an office in the same building as the mob headquarters. As a result of his eavesdropping and secret filming, 41 "family" members were convicted of racketeering.

In order to participate in this film he was obliged to peep from a cruising van while identifying the various mobsters, now out on bail, as they went about their unlawful business. "Like I said," he concluded with wry resignation, "nothing ever changes." What has changed, of course, is that his sworn enemy is at liberty, whereas he cannot show his face for fear of flying lead. His own family has been removed at public expense from a cramped flat to a frame house in a tranquil, unnamed suburb. It seems an immensely hazardous way to go about improving one's standard of living.

Anthony Burgess moved house at short notice many years ago, when an ex-mafioso gave him the office about a plot to kidnap his son. Now resident in Monaco, he regularly descends on London for the purpose of publicizing his bewilderingly frequent books, which are becoming increasingly fat and costly. "Do you care about the critics?" asked Jeremy Isaacs on *The Late Show* (BBC2). "Unfortunately," said the sage, "I do."

This reconstruction of *Face to Face* unavoidably invited comparison between Isaacs, an adequate interviewer, and that urbane viper John Freeman, a talented one. The interviewer's role was reduced to that of tagging his more promising divagations back to port. The question one waited in vain to hear was: "Do you worry about over-exposure?"

Martin Cropper

Sarah Jane Checkland meets John Bellamy, whose paintings vividly reflect his near death from liver failure

Prometheus restored

John Bellamy's bedroom is dominated by a harrowing version of the myth of Prometheus. Two eagles hover, their talons reaching for the patient's head. Straining to left and right, his head has become Janus-like, one face flesh-coloured as it clings to life, the other pallid with death. Seen from the front, their profiled eyes form a single, night-mare face staring directly at the viewer. Not your normal bedroom adornment, but this was the only room with a window big enough to allow the painting's entry.

There is a telling edge to that laughter: this time last year, Bellamy was dying of liver failure, and the bedroom had become his world. Survival depended on a succession of chances, such as the death of a donor, a 10-hour transplant operation and a supreme battle of will.

Now bearded and plump, Bellamy is jocular on the subject of his near demise, talking of it in the manner of a warm-up man: "I knocked on the Pearly Gates and wasn't ready to go. There were too many paintings to paint." The other life was closer to Brueghel and Bosch than to angels. He even has enough spare good humour to give amateur painting lessons to Professor Roy Calne of Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, one of those predatory eagles in his painting, and now a friend.

But the most unforgettable of Bellamy's recent works are those undertaken immediately after the operation, with help from a strategically placed mirror. The results of Bellamy's "passion" can be seen at exhibitions in London and Edinburgh opening this Easter, and in *The Heart of the Matter* on BBC1 on Easter Sunday.

Even before the ordeal, Bellamy had established a track record as a survivor. Son of a fisherman from Port Seton, Scotland, he had a strict Calvinist upbringing. "Death was rammed down our throats since the cradle." During the 1970s he persevered as a figurative artist at a time when conceptual art prevailed, filling his work with ominous imagery such as skulls and dead fish. During

the last five years, however, his professional fortunes have been transformed, with tributes at the National Gallery in Scotland and the Serpentine Gallery in London, and paintings bought by the Metropolitan Museum in New York. Now he is acclaimed as the forerunner of the emergent Scottish school. His Expressionistic technique is equated with Munch, Ensor and Kirchner, his imagery with the deepest roots of European culture, from Icelandic sagas to Wagner and Dante.

Bellamy married his wife, Helen, in 1964. They had three children, but she divorced him because of his dissolute ways, returning to marry him again in 1985, after the depression and death of his second wife and the onslaught of his illness.

"He would frequently have bouts of terrible sickness, something he called flu, and completely collapse," she says. "It was the liver blowing up. We still did wonderful things, me with my heart in my mouth. For they said it could be quite a sudden death." When his liver finally did fail, "he was wild, in a coma. It was terrifying."

Another symptom was insomnia. "He used to sleep all morning, and then keep awake all night. For death is nearer at night." All his work, she says, is to do with fear of death.

Bellamy joked all the way to the operating table. "After all those years waiting with a black raven on my shoulder, it was over. I knew I was heading either for a requiem or a celebration of life. It was all or nothing," he says.

After the operation Bellamy gained consciousness, but not speech, wondering on which circle of Dante's inferno he had landed. Gesturing to the nurse for paper, he scribbled down questions. Was he alive? Had the operation taken place? Then came the words, "Can I draw you?"

During the clinical limbo that followed, when everyone waited to see whether the organ had "taken", Bellamy preoccupied himself grimly with his water-colours. On day 10, he developed an infection, and duly recorded

the result. The face, famous from self-portraits throughout his career, appears fissioned with tubes and bandages, and bearing a look of agony. The pain, he said, was "excruciating beyond belief. I was thinking maybe this is the last thing I'll do. With that sort of thing you can be dead within the hour." In another portrait the face is half-obliterated. "At that point I thought I was a goner."

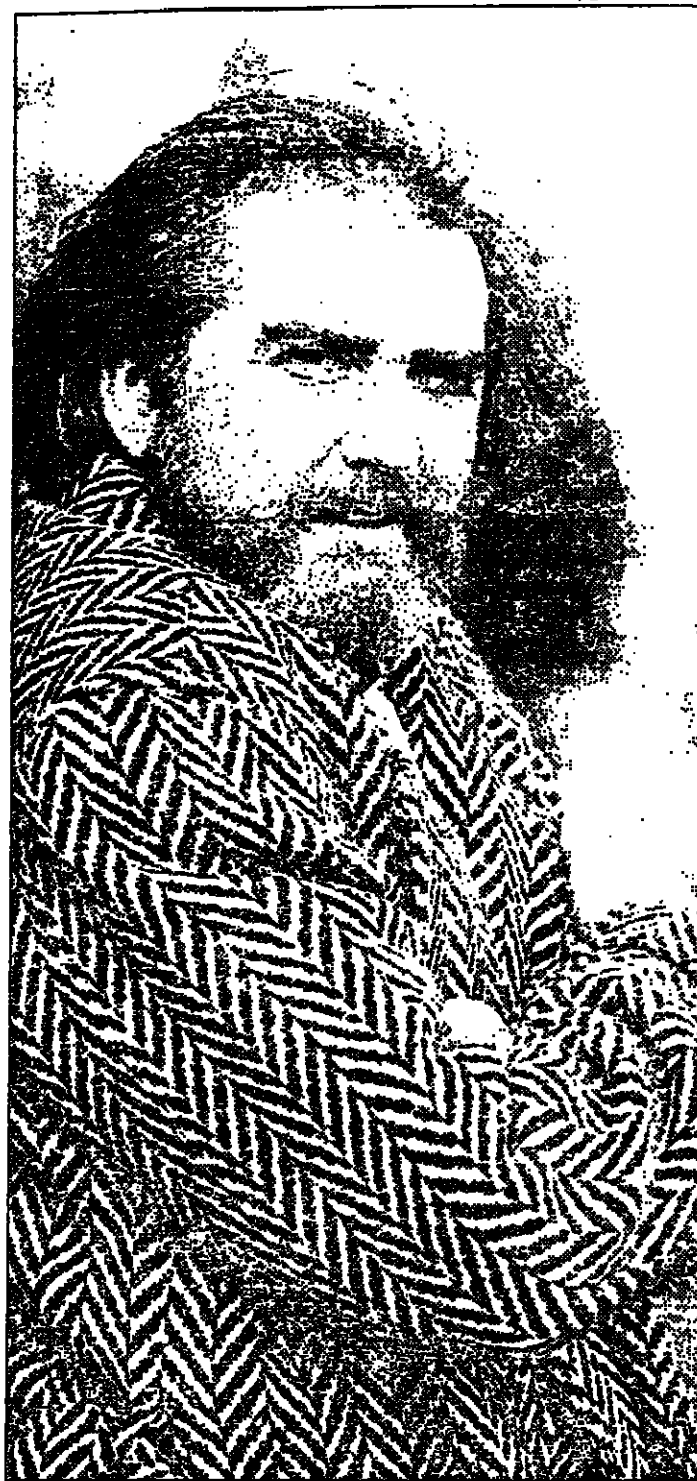
Then, suddenly, redemption. "When the new liver started to work, it was like having a new battery. All the red blotches and 'spiders' on my skin disappeared. I cried to Helen, 'I have been purged of my sins!'" Pictures which followed included "Conversation with Fate" and "Bonjour Professor Calne", a tribute to the creative powers of the surgeon and the French artist, Courbet.

Now it is time for reflection, and, Bellamy hopes, a new mellow, reflectiveness in his work. The experience has not exorcised his fear of death, bringing the "peace which passeth all understanding" which he had been promised during his childhood. He often spares a thought for the donor, who continued the journey through the Pearly Gates; someone who, according to medical ethics, remains anonymous.

But it is the Prometheus paintings which will remain as the most profound testament to Bellamy's brush with death. Here he demonstrates an understanding of the myth's implication, and applies its message to himself. For Prometheus was on the one hand a thief and punished accordingly. On the other he was man's redeemer, stealing fire from heaven and making creative progress possible.

As the immediacy of his ordeal fades, Bellamy is left with the same feelings of ambivalence, wondering the degree to which he is saint or sinner, whether he has cheated death, or been granted grace to continue.

John Bellamy: a Renaissance will be at the Museum of Modern Art in Edinburgh from March 24, while John Bellamy: recent works is at Fischer Fine Art in London, from March 31. *The Heart of the Matter* will be shown on BBC1 on Easter Sunday.



Fit for success: Bellamy's works reveal a new, mellow, reflectiveness

RECITAL

Risky business

Sviatoslav Richter
Festival Hall

Returning to London after an absence of more than a decade, Sviatoslav Richter was welcomed back on Monday night with flowers, ovations, maximum applause and maximum concentration. On a darkened stage, in the glare of a little lamp he himself operated, one saw only his hands kneading the keys and his head in profile. The effect was at once business-like and intimate, private without being confessional.

But this was the quality, too, of Richter's musicianship. Even the fiercely virtuosic Barok encores were sketched without any sense of show, and one had the impression that the entire recital could have happened in exactly the same way, encores included, if there had been not a soul in the hall.

But to raise an image of the "serious" musician quite out of place. In his seriousness, Richter lives dangerously, taking immense risks in terms of dynamic contrast, of quasi-orchestral display of deep sonority in a tidal rush, and especially of phrasing, so that the pattern never seems quite set until it is complete (an exception here was the trio in Schubert's G major sonata, where there was the relief of fixed form and supreme polish in an area somewhere near a Tchaikovsky waltz).

The Schubert performance, with full repeats and totally unhurried tempos, dominated the recital not merely by its length. Richter's apparent openness to the moment proved to have long-term justification in, for example, the way the opening sequence — at first utterly quiet and cold, like something long unused — gained in colour and clarity in the exposition's repeat and then further in the recapitulation, or in the way the ambling tempos of the first three movements were complemented by the finale, bright and splashy like a mountain stream, yet still oppressed, like a stream compelled to run in circuit.

Paul Griffiths

Headliners crying off

JAZZ

Cecil Taylor/
Lester Bowie
Camden Jazz Festival

As long ago as the Fifties, the pianist Cecil Taylor was talking about his desire to evoke the rhythms of dance — to imitate, as he put it, "the leaps in space a dancer makes". He put his ideas into practice in the mid-1970s, when he collaborated with Dianne McIntyre and composed a 12-minute piece for Mikhail Baryshnikov.

At his Bloomsbury Theatre show, the inspiration seems to have been Japanese *kabuki* theatre. I say "seems" because, in this bewildering evening, nothing could be taken for granted. For the first 20 minutes, in fact, Taylor was nowhere to be seen, but could be heard emitting guttural cries over Roger Turner's gentle percussion. Saxophonist Evan Parker could be seen in the shadows near the wings as he contributed long, keening phrases.

When Taylor finally made his way to the piano, still making his



Idiosyncratic player: Cecil Taylor combines piano and vocal sounds ritualistic sounds, we were treated to what was, by his standards, a conventional atonal set, with Parker and Turner joined by the bassist William Parker. After a lengthy interval, the quartet then improvised to free-form routines by an ad hoc group of locally-based dancers.

It was a frenetic, often chaotic evening. But there was at least more commitment on show than in Lester Bowie's desultory performance at the Town and Country on Saturday. The idea of seeing the trumpeter spar with the South African Amabutho choir must have seemed tempting on paper. In the event he had little to offer besides a handful of ragged blues phrases which bore scant relation to the choir's dignified close-harmony singing. Percussionist Don Moye, too, looked as though he would rather have been elsewhere.

Clive Davis

Situation Vacant Orange Tree

Somewhere in France Monsieur Fage, middle-aged executive, has lost his job and wants another. His schoolgirl daughter, top in maths and Greek, is pregnant by a black student she met in a book shop.

Monsieur is also in the alarming deep water of an interview for another job. The interviewer smiles falsely, darts questions; Monsieur answers with practised sincerity. It is also his birthday. Also the day of a students' demo and seditious pamphlets are under the daughter's bed. Also she is skilful with her father, and visiting London with him for an abortion (the play dates from 1971, when abortions were illegal in France).

Michel Vinaver is one of a crop of French playwrights who emerged in the Seventies with work that combines the traditions of the Epic Theatre with some of the innovations of the Absurd. Since his first success would take eight hours to stage, the Orange Tree is probably wise to introduce English audiences to Vinaver's odd technique by way of his long one-acters.

When Sam Walters produced *A Smile on the End of the Line* here two years ago, the interrupted dialogue, with abrupt switches between flowery sales talk and office gossip, revealed itself as a marvellous instrument for presenting a sense of busy, unsatisfying life.

The present piece, an earlier work, manages to suggest the multitude of pressures that distract us at a time of strain. But the effect of the fractured dialogue is arid, teasing us with fragments of story — Is Nathalie really pregnant? Do the pigs beat her up? Will Monsieur be driven mad? The play points to the minefields and mire of life but leaves its hero (Paul Moriarty) suspended just above them. Neat performances, though, from Emma D'Inverno, catching the seductive charm of a young adolescent, and Anriol Smith as the wifely wife. Gareth Armstrong delivers the line that would disorientate any interviewee: "I'd never employ someone who didn't lie."

J. K.

Pity about the poor girl

THEATRE

Love Games
Derby Playhouse

The 1890s were *fin de siècle* through most of Europe, but nowhere closer to the finish than in Vienna where, among those watching the waltz to the brink stood Freud's admired friend, Arthur Schnitzler. He is best known over here for his *Reigen* (*La Ronde*) and *Anatol*, although English audiences have had a glimpse of a bleaker vision in the play that was Stoppardized for the National Theatre as *Undiscovered Country*.

His first success was *Liebelein*, newly translated here by Charles Osborne, a theatre critic. It is this play that introduced the character of the "Sweet Girl" or *Süsse*

Madel. She was always a working girl, usually involved in something decorative, like millinery, was taken up by a wealthy young man for a brief affair and then dropped or passed on to a friend. Fritz Schnitzler's troubled hero, uses her to take his mind off a more serious love affair, but for Christine he is the love of her life. When he dies in a duel and she realizes her love meant nothing to him, she runs off to kill herself — or so we must assume, since her violinist father, left sobbing by her window, is permitted a helpful vision of her offstage doom.

Emerging like Tyrolean mountain tops above the fog of Susan Todd's production are the peaks of a touching though slender and

constantly sentimental play. Ian Fitzgibbon, with his tight introspective features and upright stance, is close to being a proper Fritz; and David Westhead locates in broad smiles and lounging over chairs the easier morals of his friend Theodor. But both have to act with Jane Gwilliams's Christine, as do all but one of the other characters, and though she has something of a Grace Kelly look, her hands-by-the-side performance becomes infinitely tedious.

Serious Love does not necessitate solemn stares, and though eventually she shrieks well, her stiff performance eliminates our interest in her predicament.

Jeremy Kingston

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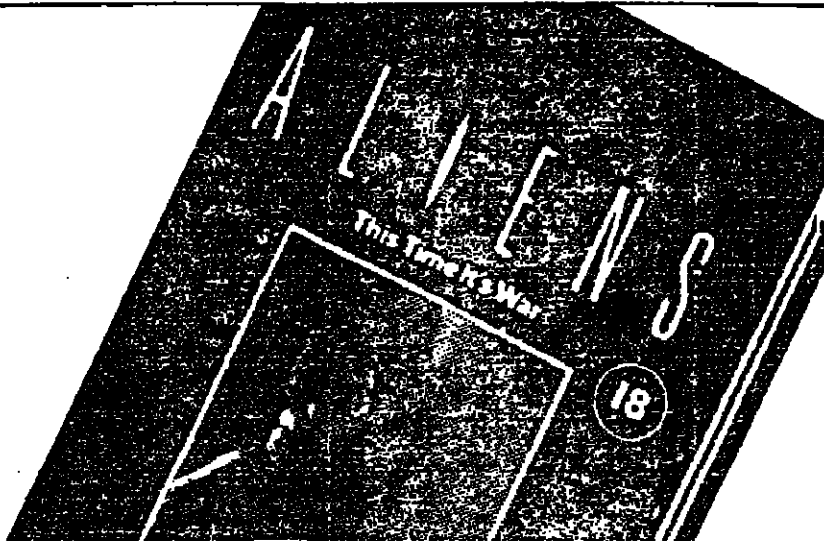
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BOOKING KEY
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THEATRE

LONDON

★ **ARTIST DESCENDING A STAIRCASE**: Duff, often touching stage version of Stoppard's radio play, transferred from the King's Head, Duke of York's Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-636 5122). Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8.30pm, Sun 2.30pm. Mats Fri and Sat 6.30pm. 25-213.50.

★ **BLOOD BROTHERS**: Willy Russell's sentimental musical: separated twins destroyed by the English class system; Kilo Deas as their mother. Albery Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-637 1115). Tue: Leicester Square, Mon-Sat 7.45-10.45pm, mats Thurs 3-6pm, and Sat 4-7pm, 25.50-216.50. (D)

★ **HENCEFORWARD**: Ian McKellen and Jane Asher in excellent Ayckbourn set in a future London serviced by willing robots. Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, WC2 (01-636 5558). Tue: Charing Cross, Mon-Fri 7.30-9.50pm, Sat 8.30-10.50pm; Mats Wed 2.30-4.50pm and Sat 5-7.20pm. 27.50-215.

★ **A HEROS WILSON**: Tragedy, humour and wit in 1947; new play by Wilson Pinno. Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, SW1 (01-730 2654). Tue: Sloane Square, Mon-Sat 7.30pm; mat Sat 3.30pm, 24-25.

★ **KING LEAR**: Eric Porter heads a great cast in Jonathan Miller's production, opening his second season. Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo Road, SE1 (01-638 7818). Tue: Waterloo Road, Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.30pm. 24-25.

★ **THE ONE-SIDED WALK**: Psychiatric hospital inmates are allowed one hour every three years to present a case for release; Janet Cresswell's play shows one such hour. Bush Theatre, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (01-743 3388). Tue: Shepherd's Bush, Tue-Sun 8pm, 26.

★ **RESTORATION**: Simon Russell Beale superb as Edward Bond's corrupt aristocrat who gets away with everything. The Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2 (01-638 8591). Tue: Barbican/Moorgate/St Paul's, Fri-Sun 7.30pm, 25-26.

★ **SPEED-THAT-PLOW**: Deals and deceit in Hollywood: David Mamet's latest play, brilliantly shared and staged by its New York director. National Theatre (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (01-632 2252). Tue: Waterloo, 7.45pm, 25.50-214; Sat mats 2.30-4.50pm, 25.50-212; weekday mats 25.

LONG RUNNERS: ★ *Cats*: New London Theatre (01-405 0072). ★ *Les Misérables*: Ambassador Theatre (01-636 8111). ★ *Life and Mr. Galt*: Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7913). ★ *Les Misérables*: Palace Theatre (01-434 0809). ★ *The Misanthrope*: St Martin's Theatre (01-636 1443). ★ *Phantom of the Opera*: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-633 2244). ★ *Run For Your Wife*: Whitehall Theatre (01-857 1159). ★ *Starlight Express*: Apollo Victoria 901-925 6767.

OUT OF TOWN

BRISTOL: ★ *The Misanthrope*: Edward Telford and Stan Thomas in NT co-production of Tony Harrison's brilliant verse translation of Molière. St. James Theatre, King St (0272 250250). Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Mats Thurs and Sat 3pm, 23-29 (D).

LINCOLN: ★ *The Late Christopher Bean*: Emlyn Williams's 1930s comedy of an aristocratic family caught up in the art market. St. James Theatre, King St (0272 250250). Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Mats Thurs and Sat 3pm, 23-29 (D).

FILMS

★ **Also on national release**
★ **Advance booking possible**

★ **ARTHUR II - ON THE ROCKS** (PG): Sequel to the 1981 comedy, with Dudley Moore as the millionaire drunk - now facing poverty (112 min). Cannon Pictures (01-633 1827). Progs 2.45, 5.45, 8.40, 11.15. at Warner West End (01-439 0791). Progs 1.05, 3.30, 6.00, 8.25, 11.15.

★ **BAGDAD CAFÉ** (PG): German director Percy Aron presents the warm, comic tale of a large middle-class tourist from Bavaria stranded in the American West. With Marianne Sägebrecht, Jack Palance, C. C. H. Pounder (81 min). Screen on Balcony (01-35 2772). Progs 3.15, 5.05, 7.10, 9.15.

★ **THE DEAD** (15): One of America's box-office smashes last year, featuring Moonlighting star Bruce Willis as a New York detective caught on Christmas Eve in a terrorist attack on a high-rise office tower. With Alan Rickman, Kevin Spacey, directed by John McTiernan (131 min). at Odeon Kensington (01-602 8644). Progs 1.45, 5.00, 8.00. at Prince Charles (01-437 8181). Progs (not Mon) 2.00, 4.50, 7.40, 11.15.

★ **GORILLAS IN THE MIST** (15): Michael Apted's film based on the true story of anthropologist Dian Fossey. With Sigourney Weaver as Fossey and Bryan Brown (122 min). at Cannon Chelsea (01-352 5066). Progs 1.55, 5.20, 9.15. at Warner West End (01-439 0791). Progs 2.55, 5.50, 8.15, 11.00.

★ **JEAN DE FLORENTE** (PG): Absorbing, beautifully acted version of Marguerite Yourcenar's novel about Prigogine.

Personal memories



Lonnie May Alcott created the adventures of Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy from memories of her own childhood. She wrote four books about them in all, though it is *Little Women*, the first, and its sequel, *Good Wives*, which are the best. The Churchill Theatre, Bromley, commissioned a stage version from Angela Huth (whose own play, *The Trouble With Old Lovers*, comes to the West End later this year) and her dramatization of the first book opens tonight. One of the four sisters dies young but as this does not happen until the second book she will still be alive at the end of the evening. Amy, however, will destroy Jo's unpublished novel and then, victim of the author's retribution, fall through the ice. As love interest there is always Laurie, fiction's original Boy Next Door, and presiding over her is Marner, played in this production by Pauline Jameson. Samantha Comfort, recently out of drama school, makes her professional debut as Jo, the most forthright of the sisters. The production is by Christopher Renshaw with designs by Tim Goodchild; after its Bromley run the play goes to the Theatre Royal, Bath. *Little Women*, Churchill Theatre, Bromley, Kent (01-460-6677). Progs 7.45pm, 25-28.

It's in the 1920s, with Yves Montand, and Daniel Auteuil. (121 min). Cannon Pictures (01-439 4470). Progs 2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45.

★ **THE LONELY PASSION OF JUDITH HEARNE** (15): Intelligent version of Brian Cowley's novel about an impoverished woman whose romantic dreams turn sour. With Maggie Smith, Bob Odenkirk, directed by Jack Clayton (103 min). at Odeon Kensington (01-633 1827). Progs 2.30, 4.45, 7.00, 9.15.

★ **MIDNIGHT RUN** (15): Engaging comedy-thriller, with Robert de Niro as a bounty hunter given the job of taking a sensitive hijacking suspect across country. With Charles Grodin, directed by Martin Brest (126 min). at Empire Leicester Sq (01-200 0200). Progs 1.00, 3.45, 6.30, 9.15, 11.55.

★ **THE MODERNS** (15): Paris Bohémien in the 1920s, romantically depicted by director Alan Rudolph. With Keith Carradine, Linda Fiorentino and Geraldine Chaplin (126 min). at Odeon Kensington (01-633 1827). Progs 2.30, 4.45, 7.00, 9.15.

★ **THE NAKED GUN** (15): Wild, raunchy genre spoof from Alpanet team of Jerry and Dave Zucker and Jim Abrahams (85 min). at Cannon Baker Street (01-436 9772). Progs 2.05, 4.15, 6.25, 8.35. at Cannon Fulham Rd (01-370 2636). Progs 1.45, 4.15, 6.40, 9.10.

★ **NIGHT 200** (15): Abrasive French-Canadian film about drugs in Montreal and a young man's relationship with his dying father. A feature debut by writer-director Jean-Claude Lauzon (115 min). at Odeon Leicester Sq (01-437 3561). Progs 1.00, 2.55, 4.50, 6.45, 8.45.

★ **BOCHMANN NO MORE**: The Meggin Quartet, formerly the Bachman Quartet, perform Mozart's Quartet K 587, Beethoven's Quartet Op 59 No 3 and Prokofiev's Quartet No 2 - the one based on Kabuki and the other on the Russian. Wigmore Hall, 35 Wigmore St, London W1 (01-633 2141). 7.30pm, 23-26.

★ **LISZT TRANSCRIBED**: Simon Rattle conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in Liszt's Holtinger's Two Liszt Transcriptions, Shostakovich's Symphony No 3, and in Liszt's Cello Concerto the soloist is Lynn Harrell. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-638 8801). 7.15-9.15pm, 24-25.50.

★ **SURVIVING RELUCTANCE**: There's still life in film about the Revolutionary War and Edward Downes conducts the BBC Philharmonic and numerous singers in Schenker's comic opera *Von Hase auf Hase*. English National Opera, Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-636 5161). 7pm, 25.50-225.

★ **NEW LIPKIN**: In between Haydn's Trio Hob VI/18 and Schubert's Trio D 880 the English Trio give the world premiere of Malcolm Lipkin's Trio. Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (01-638 8800). 8pm, 23, 24.50.

OPERA

★ **DON GIOVANNI**: Revival of Jonathan Miller's stark production, with the tall grey towers, brings Jane Glover to the pit for her house debut. Steven Page takes the title role with Richard Van Allan as Leporello. English National Opera, Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-636 5161). 7pm, 25.50-225.

★ **LA BOHEME**: Welsh national revival, with Frances Gwegang as Mimì. New Theatre, Cardiff (0222 344444). 7.15pm, 26.50-222.50.

ROCK

★ **SONIC YOUTH**: Arch, noisy, New York contrabassists recently featured on *Rock On* 234 Kilburn High Rd, London NW6 (01-328 3141). 7.30pm, 27, for two nights.

★ **ROACHFORD**: Puncty black rock 'n' roll from the "Cuddly Trio" ("Family Man") Londoners. Rock Club, 101 Tottenham Court Rd (0202 412541) 9pm, 25.

★ **THE GREGG & COLLIER BAND**: Unashamedly conservative folk-rock band promoting their third and best album of their association, *Change in the Weather*. Newcastle Playhouse, Barras Bridge (081 232 7779). 7.15pm, 23.50-24.

★ **THE WONDER STUFF**: Yobboish post-grunge rockers celebrating a hit with "Who Wants to be the Disco King". Support are the supposedly radical Shockers. The Lion, 17 Highbury Grove, London NW5 (01-284 0339) 7pm, 25.

JAZZ

★ **28TH STREET SAXOPHONISTS**: Quartet: Though there is a plague of all-arounders at the moment, the group led by ex-Messinger Bobby Watson is usually one of the more interesting. Jazz Club, 1 Graham Rd, Cambridge (0223 82888) 8pm, 210.

★ **ONWARD JAZZ**: Saxophonist Dave Ball's fusion of Latin and calypso rhythms. Support from The Richards Trio. Bass Club, 35 Cornhill St, London N1 (01-720 2478) 8.45pm, 23.50.

★ **LOOSE TUBES/ROADSIDE PICTURE**: Fast becoming regulars at Frith Street, the big band-cum-collective appears opposite BMG's new fusion stars. Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Frith St, London W1 (01-439 0747) 8.30pm, 210 (members 22).

★ **STAN TRACEY ORCHESTRA**: Final night of a Contemporary Music Network concert featuring the Stan Tracey Orchestra. The Old Vic, London SE1 (01-638 8800). 7.30, 24.50-214.50.

Theatre Royal, Winchester (0562 843434) 7.45pm, 24.50-25.50.

DANCE

★ **RUBIES**: Royal Ballet's new production of Stravinsky's jazz-influenced *Les Femmes d'Alger*. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (01-240 1066). 7.30pm, 21-22.

★ **APPEARANCE**: New work by Sue Maclean for her Occasional Dance Company, and solos by company members. The Place, Dulux Road, WC1 (01-387 0031). 8pm, 25.

GALLERIES

★ **MINIMALISM**: A large display of spartan sculpture by American artists of the 1960s and 1970s, including no fewer than three versions of Carl Andre's *Equivalent* (Tape Brick) series. St. James Theatre, King St, Bristol (01-272 250250). Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, free, until Feb 1990.

★ **WOLFGANG KLOTZ**: Broadly executed paintings of chess players. Flowers East, 159 Richmond Rd, London E2 (01-636 5535). Wed-Sun 10am-5pm, free, until Apr 18.

★ **BACK THEM UP**: Posters from 1939 to the late 1950s. Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon, London NW9 (01-205 2258). daily 10am-5.5pm, 23.1, until Apr 10.

★ **ALONG THE LINES OF RESISTANCE**: A mixed show of contemporary feminist art. Rochdale Art Gallery, Explanade (0706 342154). Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Wed 10am-1pm, Sat 10am-4pm, free, until Apr 12.

★ **EDWARD SEAGO** (1910-1974): Landscape oils from this popular artist's estate. Spink & Son, 5 King Street, London SW1 (01-630 7888). Mon-Fri 9.30am-5.30pm, free, until Mar 31.

MUSEUMS

★ **CHELSEA IN THE SUNSHINE**: Paintings and pen and ink sketches by Alfred Bennett Bamford. Chelmsford & Essex Museum, Chelmsford Road, Chelmsford (0245 490480). Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Free. Until Mar 26.

★ **GRAND NATIONAL - 150 YEARS OF ANTIQUE STEEPCHASE**: See caption. Liverpool Museum, William Brown St, Liverpool (051 207 0001). Tue-Sun 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm. Closed Good Friday. Free.

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★ **PRINTS BY J.J. AUDUBON**: Exhibition of life-size prints of the 19th century ornithologist's birds and mammals. Victoria and Albert Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 (01-633 6284). Open weekdays noon-5pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-5pm. Free. Until Apr 15.

★ **FOODCRAFTS - FOOD AND FASHION THROUGH TIME**: First venue for a travelling exhibition. Portsmouth City Museum & Art Gallery, Portsmouth Road, Old Portsmouth (0705 827221). Open daily 10.30am-5.30pm. Adults 50p, children 30p. Until Apr 15.

WALKS

★ **JACK THE RIPPER**: Most Aldgate East tube, 11am, 23, (01-504 5158).

★ **SYGONE LONDON**: Most Temple tube, 11am, 23, (01-837 4281).

OTHER EVENTS

★ **HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL**: Young musicians from all over the world perform in the town over the next eight days. Most of the main concerts will be held in the Royal Hall with others at the Harrogate Centre and in schools and churches throughout the area. Festival Office, Royal Bath, Park Street, Harrogate (0423 531988). Tickets from Harrogate Centre Box Office (0423 84433).

★ **22ND ANNUAL NORFOLK EASTER ANTIQUES FAIR**: Quisly fair stand by some 40 dealers. Furniture pre-1800, porcelain and glass pre-1800, all antiques pre-1800. St Andrews Hall, St Andrews Place, Norwich, Norfolk. Until Sat. Today 9am-5pm, tomorrow, Fri 11am-5pm, Sat 11am-5pm. Adult 15p, Child 7p.

★ **LUNCHEON AT HAY'S GALLERY**: The Delta Secondary School Group, comprising 22 musical Canadian students - enjoying the music of Hay's Gallery, Tooty St, London SE1, 1pm-2pm. Free.

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

★ **GREEK FESTIVAL IN LONDON**: Greek culture and folk music, with several premieres, including works by Hadjidakis and Xenakis (with staged performance of his *Orestes*), plays by Eros Rado Ensemble and Greek. Byzantine music, and folk music from Macedonia, Crete, the Caucasus and Cyprus (with dance in traditional costume). Also poetry readings, music from the 1920s and 1930s plus Greek food and wine in the foyer. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-638 8800). May 10-21. Advance booking open. General booking April 4.

★ **LONDON INTERNATIONAL OPERA FESTIVAL**: Events at Royal Opera House include the premiere of a new production of *Albert Herring*, and *Travelling*. Post booking open. Personal booking from Apr 1. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066/1911).

LAST CHANCE

★ **YOLANDE SONNENBERG**: Paintings by a Dutch designer plus a solo show of paintings by Ansel Krut. Ends Thurs. Fletcher Fine Art, 30 King St, London EC2 (01-638 8800).

★ **HOW WE USED TO LIVE 1954-74**: Household items and wallpaper making up an exhibition of nostalgia. Ends Sun. Museum and Art Gallery, Oswald Rd, Southampton (0724 843333).

★ **Theatre**: Jeremy Kingston; Films: Geoffrey Brown; Concerts: The Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Book: David Sinclair; Jazz: Clive Davis; Dance: John Percival; Galleries: David Lee; Museums: Simon Tate; Walks: Greta Carlaw; Other Events: Judy Frothingham; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.

CLASSICAL TOP 20

- (1) Mahler: Resurrection... Gilbert Kaplan, HMV Classics
- (2) Elgar: Cello Concerto... Du Pré/Bernstein, HMV
- (3) Elgar: Cello Concerto... Domingo/Brightman/ECO, HMV
- (4) Elgar: Cello Concerto... Webber/Menutrin/RPO, Philips
- (5) Albinoni: Adagio... Karajan/BPO, DG
- (6) Vivaldi: Four Seasons... Hogwood/AAM, L'Oiseau Lyre
- (7) Holst: The Planets... Karajan/BPO, DG
- (8) Elgar: Cello Concerto... Du Pré/Bernstein/RPO, DG
- (9) Beethoven: Symphony 5... Karajan/BPO, DG
- (10) Mendelssohn/Bruce: Violin Concertos... Kennedy/Tate/ECO, HMV
- (11) Wagner: Concert... Karajan/VPO/Norman, DG
- (12) Sibelius: Symphony 5... Rattle/CSBO, HMV
- (13) Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto 2... Ashkenazy/Hatnig/COA, Decca
- (14) Faure: Requiem... Karajan/BPO, DG
- (15) Mozart: Piano Concertos 13 & 14... Tabe/Juchacz/RPO, Philips
- (16) Beethoven: Piano Concerto 5... Arrau/Davis/Dresden, Philips
- (17) Mozart: Piano Concerto in C... Tate/ECO, Philips
- (18) Grieg: Peer Gynt Suite... Karajan/BPO, DG
- (19) Elgar: Enigma Variations... Bernstein/BBCSO, DG
- (20) Mahler: Symphony 2... Rattle/CSBO, HMV Reflex

Source: Music Week Research

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1827

ACROSS

- 3 Wary (4)
- 5 Offside behind wicketkeeper (4)
- 6 Circumference (5)
- 10 Violent attack (9)
- 11 Despoil (5)
- 12 Billy Ruster bird nickname (3)
- 13 Farewell (5)
- 14 Golden syrup (7)
- 15 Snobbish, arrogant (4-3)
- 16 Scap (3)
- 19 Despicable person (3)
- 22 Kingdom (5)
- 23 Speak French (9)
- 24 Swedish money unit (5)
- 25 Rip (4)
- 26 Trim (4)

DOWN

- 1 Schedule (6)
- 2 Rocking tenderly (8)
- 3 Pedigree (12)
- 4 Outcome (6)
- 5 Convivial (4)
- 6 Deaf, delicate (6)
- 9 Outstanding strategy (12)
- 15 Pod, seed space (8)
- 16 Food basket (6)
- 17 Petty details (6)
- 18 Debase (6)
- 21 Grain husk food (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1826
ACROSS: 1 Broadcasting 9 Diagonal 10 Refit 11 Erupt 12 Unfairly 14 Eye 15 Bonus 16 Job 18 Society 20 Crag 22 Overt 23 Black 24 Composition
DOWN: 2 Rascal 3 Ages 4 Cat-o-nine-tails 5 Sappho 6 Infer 7 Getty 8 Advers 13 Alibi 14 Jericho 17 Begs 18 Stair 19 Broom 21 Stat

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

SUBDOULOUS
(b) Crafty, cunning, sly, from the Latin *sub-* in the sense of 'somewhat' + *dolus* a 'trick'. 'The subdulous press of America' (Larkin).

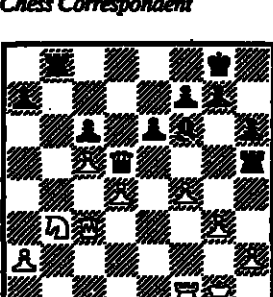
KISTVAEN
(a) A chest-shaped burial chamber made of flat stones, from the Welsh *kist* chest, from the septuaginta form of *monument*. 'Kistvaens are commonly three stones placed on edge, like the three sides of a box, with a stone cover'.

TIXA
(a) A red mark on the forehead of Hindu women, formerly of religious significance, but now counted as a beauty spot, from the Hindi *tit* 'red'. 'On her forehead was the red dot of marriage'.

HOGGIN
(a) Sifted gravel, a mixture containing gravel, perhaps from *hogging* the curved cross-section of a road to throw off water. 'It's a hoggin bed there is a foot of coarse gravel six inches of fine hoggin, and sand'.

WINNING MOVE

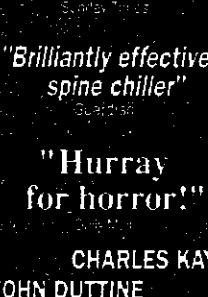
By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



The above position is taken from the game between Hart (White) and Miranda (Black), played in Boston 1988. Black plays and wins. The winning move will be given in tomorrow's Times. Solution to yesterday's position: Black wins with 1 Rfx2+

"A real thrill"

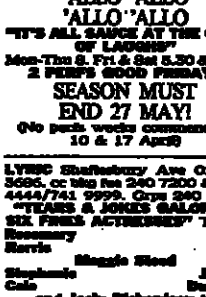
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TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

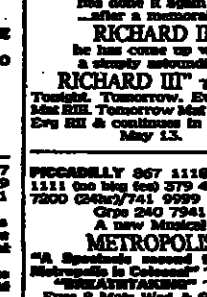
BY HARRIS LEE



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(01-240 7200 (124hrs 7 days))

THE WOMAN IN BLACK

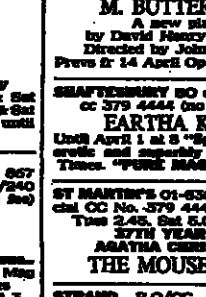
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THE WOMAN IN BLACK

BY HARRIS LEE



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THE WOMAN IN BLACK

BY HARRIS LEE

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Stephanie Billen

Kicking in the windows

Peter Waymark

According to her sister, Simone de Beauvoir gave two reasons for her decision not to have children. The first was that motherhood would be difficult to combine with her career as a writer. The second was fear of repeating her troubled relationship with her mother. That her children might have been sons and not daughters, seems not to have occurred to her. She did adopt a girl but it was hardly a mother-daughter relationship. In a wider sense she had many offspring: the women inspired by her feminist writings and liberated life. Some of them appear in Imogen Sutton's film for BBC2 (BBC2, 8.00pm), which is



Mother of many: Simone de Beauvoir's influential life recalled (BBC2, 8.00pm) called, appropriately, *Daughters of de Beauvoir* and marks the fourth anniversary of her most influential book, *The Second Sex*. For Kate Millett it was a very dangerous book. "It could make you not just want to be one of the good girls that went to college, but you wanted to kick the windows in, too." For Ann Oakley, *The Second Sex* carried the inspiring message that since sexual inequality had nothing to do with biology and everything to do with social forces, there was room for change. Other women speak of de Beauvoir as being the mother they wished they had had. These testimonies are interspersed with an account of de Beauvoir's life, with contributions from her sister, Hélène, and the adopted daughter, Sylvie. There is also footage of an interview for German television given by de Beauvoir and her lifelong companion, Jean-Paul Sartre, whose grave she shares. Sartre, too, professed to be a feminist, though Sylvie claims that he tended to treat women like children.

Long Lartin is a top security prison in Worcestershire whose inmates include murderers, terrorists, rapists and armed robbers. This does not prevent them from being intelligent and articulate, as they demonstrate in *Disciples* (Channel 4, 8.30pm). David Cohen's film covers a forum in which prisoners, prison staff and outside experts gather to discuss problems and grievances. By the standards of some prisons we have seen on television recently, Long Lartin is relatively civilized. At least every man has his own cell. But the prisoners still have plenty to grumble about, not least John Walker and Hugh Callaghan of the "Birmingham Six" who reckon they were wrongly convicted and should not be there at all.

BBC

- 6.00 **Coffee AM**.
- 6.30 **The Flintstones in Barney the Dinosaur** (1). 6.55 **Weather**.
- 7.00 **Breakfast Time** with John Stapleton and Jeremy Punt.
- 7.15 **News** and **Regional News** (1). 7.25, 7.30, 7.35 and 7.40 regional news and travel reports at 7.27, 7.37 and 7.47. 7.55 **Regional News** and **Weather**.
- 8.00 **News** and **Weather** followed by **Open Air**. Joining Eamonn Holmes in the studio is game show host Henry Kelly.
- 8.30 **Robert Kelly** (1). In his third and final programme of his Middle East trip, returns to Jerusalem where he chairs a discussion between Jews, Christians and Muslims on the significance of religion.
- 10.00 **News** and **Weather** followed by **Going to Gold** (1).
- 10.15 **Children's BBC** presented by Simon Pegg. **Playhouse**. The story of a boy who is a thief.
- 10.30 **The Gospel According to St. Matthew**. The third of seven films narrated by Peter Dinklage (1).
- 11.00 **News** and **Weather** followed by **Open Air**. Eamonn Holmes and Mavis Nicholson are in Enniskillen to read out local people and television professionals' letters to the television presents a fair and accurate image of Northern Ireland.
- 12.00 **News** and **Weather** followed by **Daytime Live** with Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Sifers. 12.30 **Regional News** and **Weather**.
- 1.00 **Open Air** with Philip Hargrove.
- 1.30 **Neighbour**. Lucy plays detective and lands Jim in a lot of trouble; and Scott begins his vital quest.
- 1.50 **Going for Gold**. Henry Kelly with another round of the European general knowledge quiz.
- 2.15 **Knots Landing**. Greg makes a startling announcement at a heavily-organized press conference, and Karen investigates the truth behind Val's missing babies.
- 3.00 **Scrapes**. Moral dilemmas game hosted by Simon Mayo. The guests are Peter O'Brien, Barbara Windsor, Jeremy Hardy and Julian Critchley MP. 3.30 **The Pink Panther Show**. Three cartoons (1).
- 3.50 **Bodytalk**. Music and mime series introduced by Wayne Pritchett. 4.00 **Wishful**. 4.15 **Jeopardy!**. The Auckland City Opera Ballet Company perform a version of *Lewis Carroll's The Walrus and the Carpenter*. 4.30 **Belle and Sebastian**. Animated adventures of a young boy and his dog.
- 5.00 **Newsround**. 5.10 **The Country Boy**. The sixth and final episode of the environmental-drama series about Ben, after deciding to return to his home, catches West leading up more craters of the stolen chemicals. Starring Jeremy Sweetland. (Contest).
- 5.30 **Metaphors** (1).
- 5.50 **Open Air** with Nicholas Witchell and Anna Ford. **Weather**.
- 6.00 **London Plus**.
- 7.00 **Woman**. The guests include Shirley MacLaine and Lionel Jeffries.
- 7.30 **Benji**. In the last of the series Sir John Mills introduces highlights from 50 years of song and dance films from Rank Studios.
- 8.00 **Italia**. Italy is determined to make a new life for herself with JR and tuesdays unexpected quarter for help. (Contest).
- 8.30 **Points of View** with Tim Rice. 8.40 **A Party Political Broadcast** on behalf of the Conservative Party.
- 8.55 **News** with Michael Burk. Regional news and **Weather**.
- 9.30 **G.D.R.** *Riddle of the Street*. A revised report of the programme investigating the mystery surrounding the Turin Shroud. (Contest).
- 10.00 **Sportlight** introduced by Steve Rider. Footage: highlights of tonight's FA Cup sixth round replay between Norwich and West Ham; Snooker: a world cup match between Northern Ireland and Canada in Bournemouth; Motor racing: Murray Walker reports from Italy on Nigel Mansell's preparations for this year's championship which begins in Brazil on Sunday.
- 10.15 **News**. According to St. Matthew. Part three (1).
- 12.15 **Weather**.

ITV/LONDON

- 8.00 **TV-am** begins with **News** and **The Morning Programme** introduced by Mike Morris. 7.00 **News** followed by **Good Morning Britain** presented by Mike Morris and Kathy Taylor. 8.00 **News**; 8.00 **News** and **Wacaway** with Timmy Mallett. 8.15 **News**. Music and lyrics quiz game show hosted by Alan Davies. 8.55 **Thames news** and **weather**.
- 10.00 **The Time**. The Place... Mike Scott chairs a discussion on a topical subject.
- 10.40 **The Morning**. Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes microwave hints; and advice for parents with children on school holidays; national and international news at 11.00 followed by regional news.
- 12.10 **Adrian**. The young (1). 12.30 **A Country Practice**.
- 1.00 **News** at One with Julie Somerville. **Weather**. 1.30 **Thames news** and **weather**.
- 1.30 **Maroon**. The second of four programmes featuring chef Marco Pierre White. Today he prepares a meal for Nico Ledeny, beginning with a bowl of oysters with caviar followed by stuffed sea bass. 2.00 **Richard and Judy**. Australian drama series. What's the story? Angela Ripston and Jill Cooper are joined by Nicky Campbell, Barbara Knox and Ross Davidson. 2.30 **Thames news** and **weather**.
- 3.30 **Sooty**. 3.40 **The Moomins** (1). 4.00 **Tumbledown Farm**, with Dick King-Smith. 4.30 **E.M.U.** U-TV presented by Rod Hull. *Children's World*. Drama series set in the children's ward of a general hospital.
- 5.10 **Home and Away**. Australian series about a married couple and their five kids. 5.30 **News** with Fiona Armstrong. **Weather**.
- 5.55 **Thames news** and **weather**. 6.00 **Radio 4** with the Community Radio Association.
- 6.30 **Emmerdale Farm**. Joe and Kate try for the last time to persuade her to let him have a church wedding.
- 7.00 **Business Today**. Geography and travel team quiz game presented by Sarah Kennedy. (Contest).
- 7.30 **Coronation Street**. Set does not know where to place the finger of suspicion when the Rovers' takings are down for the second time. (Contest).
- 8.00 **The Hippodrome Show**. Variety show introduced by Ron Lacey. Among those appearing this week are Uri Geller, Tommy Tune, Aswad and Anne Phillips.
- 8.30 **Flying Saucer**. The team at Tower Bridge. The second of the series examines the reports of the special pressures and problems of their job.
- 9.30 **The Benji**. A compilation from last year's series. With Bob Todd, Nicholas Parsons and Jenny Lee Wright.
- 10.00 **A Party Political Broadcast** on behalf of the Conservative Party.
- 10.05 **News** with Sandy Gall and Alastair Stewart. **Weather**. 10.35 **Thames news** and **weather**.
- 10.40 **Midweek Sport Special** presented by Nicky Campbell and Eton Weisby. In the last of the series Sir John Mills introduces highlights from 50 years of song and dance films from Rank Studios.
- 11.00 **Italia**. Italy is determined to make a new life for herself with JR and tuesdays unexpected quarter for help. (Contest).
- 11.30 **Points of View** with Tim Rice. 11.40 **A Party Political Broadcast** on behalf of the Conservative Party.
- 11.55 **News** with Michael Burk. Regional news and **Weather**.
- 12.15 **G.D.R.** *Riddle of the Street*. A revised report of the programme investigating the mystery surrounding the Turin Shroud. (Contest).
- 12.30 **Sportlight** introduced by Steve Rider. Footage: highlights of tonight's FA Cup sixth round replay between Norwich and West Ham; Snooker: a world cup match between Northern Ireland and Canada in Bournemouth; Motor racing: Murray Walker reports from Italy on Nigel Mansell's preparations for this year's championship which begins in Brazil on Sunday.
- 12.15 **News**. According to St. Matthew. Part three (1).
- 12.15 **Weather**.

BBC

- 6.55 **Sesame Street**. Pre-school learning series. 7.00 **News**. 7.25 **Open Air**. 7.30 **News**. 7.35 **Open Air**. 7.40 **News**. 7.45 **Open Air**. 7.50 **News**. 7.55 **Open Air**. 8.00 **News**. 8.05 **Open Air**. 8.10 **News**. 8.15 **Open Air**. 8.20 **News**. 8.25 **Open Air**. 8.30 **News**. 8.35 **Open Air**. 8.40 **News**. 8.45 **Open Air**. 8.50 **News**. 8.55 **Open Air**. 9.00 **News**. 9.05 **Open Air**. 9.10 **News**. 9.15 **Open Air**. 9.20 **News**. 9.25 **Open Air**. 9.30 **News**. 9.35 **Open Air**. 9.40 **News**. 9.45 **Open Air**. 9.50 **News**. 9.55 **Open Air**. 10.00 **News**. 10.05 **Open Air**. 10.10 **News**. 10.15 **Open Air**. 10.20 **News**. 10.25 **Open Air**. 10.30 **News**. 10.35 **Open Air**. 10.40 **News**. 10.45 **Open Air**. 10.50 **News**. 10.55 **Open Air**. 11.00 **News**. 11.05 **Open Air**. 11.10 **News**. 11.15 **Open Air**. 11.20 **News**. 11.25 **Open Air**. 11.30 **News**. 11.35 **Open Air**. 11.40 **News**. 11.45 **Open Air**. 11.50 **News**. 11.55 **Open 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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BSG International makes 28% advance

BSG International, the automotive components and vehicle distribution group, has lifted pre-tax profits 28 per cent to £23.14 million (£18.03 million) in the year to end-December, with turnover up from £545.2 million to £559.5 million.

The strongest rises in trading profits came from the auto component manufacturing business, up from £5.17 million to £7.6 million, and the vehicle distribution and leasing activities, which advanced from £8.04 million to £11.01 million. There is also an extraordinary credit of £13.68 million, reflecting the disposal last April of Seat Belt Businesses to Electrolux for £28.3 million. Earnings per share were 8.01p (7.43p). A final dividend of 2.34p has been proposed, making a total 3p, up from 2p.

TIP Europe rises to £5m

TIP Europe, the trailer rental group, increased pre-tax profits from £3.8 million to £5.1 million, on turnover up from £17.1 million to £20.8 million in the six months to end-January. Demand across Europe is holding up well, the company said. Earnings per share have risen from 6.5p to 6.6p. The interim dividend is 1.6p (nil).

Net income falls at Clyde

Net income at Clyde Petroleum, Britain's third largest independent oil company, fell from £4.07 million to £3 million for the year to end-December. A final dividend of 0.5p makes 1p for the year against nothing previously. Clyde said it expected extra production is achieved and sterling oil prices remain strong 1989 operating profit will rise significantly.

Audio Fidelity loss

Shares in Audio Fidelity, the loudspeaker manufacturer, started trading at 62p against a suspension price of 129p after it announced a pre-tax loss of £2.34 million in the six months to end-December, against pre-tax profits of £380,000 last time. Turnover increased 127 per cent to £5.9 million.

To compensate for write-offs, the company, which revealed accounting discrepancies earlier this year, has announced a seven-for-eight rights issue to raise £1.94 million to repay bank borrowings. The loss per share is 29.1p, down from earnings of 5.4p previously. There is no interim dividend (0.25p).

Johnson up to £18.5m

Johnson Group Cleaners, the drycleaning and textile rental company, reported pre-tax profits up from £11.6 million to £18.5 million in the 50 weeks to end-December. Turnover rose from £101.8 million to £124.3 million. Earnings per share were 60.09p (38.98p). The final dividend is 17.9p, making 23.1p (18.6p).

Gain for Hall Engineering

Hall Engineering, the steel stockholder and processor, raised 1988 pre-tax profits from £9.1 million to £10.2 million, after a rise of £1 million in profits from associated companies. Earnings per share rose from 42.51p to 46.06p after exceptional items. The final dividend is 8.9p, making 14.4p for the year against 12p in 1987.

Prudential springs a £40m surprise

Large life assurance companies do not have a reputation for springing surprises on the stock market, but the Prudential has managed it with a vengeance. Its pre-tax profit of £352 million, up 35.5 per cent, is about £40 million higher than the market had expected.

No surprise, then, that the shares took off, rising 11p to 188p to find what is probably a new trading level for the company. The optimism was partly about the profit growth and partly about the receding likelihood of a rights issue.

Both things were helped by the increased transfer to shareholders' funds out of the life funds. The Pru, where Brian Corby is chief executive, boosted the transfer by 0.5 per cent, adding about £10 million to its profits. In 1989, the transfer is planned at 10 per cent, which should add a further £50 million or so to profits. Since the Pru had given no warning of this change of policy, it is little surprise that the market underestimated.

But the transfer has another useful effect. By swelling shareholders' funds through increased retentions, it has brought the company's gearing down from nearly 90 per cent to 70 per cent. That is handy for a company when talk of an impending rights issue is holding back the share price. Increased transfers in future years will reduce gearing further and unless the Pru

goes for some big acquisition (none seems planned) a rights issue looks highly unlikely.

In the meantime, other circumstances conspired to improve the group's performance. General insurance results — almost doubled to £87.4 million — were good. Last year's Budget tax relief on pre-1982 capital gains tax swelled life fund profits substantially and may have added another £10 million or more to the Pru's profits. Estate agency also looked good despite the housing market downturn — although this probably owed much to heavy investment in 1987.

The Pru is likely to beat £400 million in profits comfortably this year, and offer a 17.5 per cent dividend rise (the same as this year) to give 9.4p for 1989. That means a yield of 6.7 per cent, which is still above companies such as Legal & General but a new level for the Pru.

Wimpey

The main stock market excitement over Wimpey lies in the 3 per cent stake held by Australia's FAI Insurance and a long-rumoured consortium bid to be led by Mr David Davies of Imry Merchant Developers.

Wimpey has, however, always been something of a corporate mystery. A supportive 35 per cent stake held by Grove Charity Management has allowed it to keep a few



Policy change: Brian Corby, Prudential chief executive

things up its sleeve, such as the split between housebuilding and construction, while the City has tried to discover hidden value.

The 1988 results show that whatever is hidden, Sir Clifford Chetwood has fulfilled his five-year plan as chairman to achieve value up-front.

Pre-tax profits are up 51 per cent to £144.5 million, at the top of market expectations. After a higher tax charge, earnings have still jumped 31 per cent to 32.8p and the dividend is up by a defensive 37 per cent to 9.25p. Even with a bid premium, that values the shares (up 4p to 305p) at just 9.3 times earnings on a 4 per cent yield covered 3.5 times.

side and expects an immediate 15 per cent return. Moreover, the property division contributed only £0.6 million to the 1988 results against £20 million in 1987, because of lack of sales and £7.4 million provisions against European properties. A net £29 million revaluation of investment properties is a reminder that property can step into any breach in 1989.

Wimpey might produce £170 million pre-tax in 1989 even with housing moving in the wrong direction. The shares look good value without a bid.

Burton Group

Burton Group has shown it can succeed in an expanding retail market. Now it has to prove it can cope in a depressed high street. So far so good.

Profits before tax rose 7 per cent to £117.5 million in the six months to March 4, showing it has weathered the shakeout better than expected.

The company's decision to mark down prices before Christmas — and before most of its competitors — rather than wait for the traditional New Year sales season, helped push up retail sales by £90 million.

Retail turnover as a whole rose 13 per cent with a 2.5 per cent growth in profits to £104 million.

Debenhams made above-average returns, benefiting

from its customers being less affected by the interest rate squeeze, but Top Shop and Principles for Women continue to disappoint. Action is being taken to refocus them towards a slightly older age group.

Financial services managed to increase its contribution by 5.5 per cent to £13.5 million but here again interest rates are squeezing margins.

Property development is starting to have a considerable impact. The division doubled profits to £12 million — against £14 million for the whole of last year — and a steady income is expected for the future.

Burton now has to take an even tighter grip on costs to face what the normally ebullient Sir Ralph Halpern concedes is going to be a very difficult and, most likely, prolonged trading period for the retail sector.

Price inflation is at a virtual standstill, but rent and wage costs are still rising and there seems little doubt that margins are going to come under increasing pressure.

Burton appears on course for profits of £228 million this year, putting the shares, up 4p to 212p, on an earnings multiple of nine.

The first hint of a recovery in the high street should see them go higher. They still look a better bet than Dixons or Storehouse.

Countrywide setback

Hambro Countrywide, the estate agency group, suffered a £3.6 million fall in pre-tax profits last year from £24.9 million to £21.3 million, because of the slowdown in the housing market during the final quarter of 1988.

The high level of business

earlier in the year brought an increase in turnover from £95 million to £121 million.

After a drop in earnings per share from 6.04p to 5.86p, the final dividend is cut to 1.5p, from 1.75p last year. The dividend for the full year is unchanged at 2.6p.

Profit up 68% at Propeller

Propeller, the leisurewear specialist, reports annual pre-tax profits 68 per cent higher at £703,159 on turnover 56 per cent up at £9.45 million. Earnings per share increased by 65 per cent to 5.53p and the board recommends a maiden dividend of 0.5p a share.

Hepworth results at record £86.3m

By Geoffrey Foster

Hepworth, formerly known as Hepworth Ceramic, the building products group, boosted annual pre-tax profits by 43.4 per cent to a record £86.3 million in 1988. Earnings per share rose 34 per cent from 21.24p to 28.59p.

Operating profit soared more than 48 per cent from £59 million to £87.5 million and sales rose by almost 39 per cent to £576.8 million.

The final dividend is 7.9p, making a total of 12.05p for the year (9.90p).

Mr Sinclair Thomson, the chief executive, who took charge less than three years ago and quickly reduced the company's dependence on low-growth "heavy" products like refractories and clay pipes, described the results as "impressive" and said that every division had shown significant profit improvements.

The performance of Henderson Group, the door manu-



Thomson: "impressive"

facturer, which was acquired for £84.6 million in March 1988 and which gave Hepworth the market leadership in industrial doors, plus a strong position in garage doors, has exceeded expectations.

Mr Thomson intends to continue to expand Hepworth's core business by planned investments, and to diversify into new related product areas.

Trinity surges to £14.8m

By Our City Staff

Trinity International, the Liverpool newspaper and packaging group, yesterday reported a leap in profits from £11.47 million to £14.8 million for the year to end-December.

The dividend rises 20 per cent to 6p for the year and earnings are up 30 per cent to 16.5p a share.

Trinity says it has made a "reasonable start" to the current year.

However, much will depend on trends in retail spending across the company's divisions in Britain and the United States.

Trinity direcpres say 1989 may well be a year of consolidation.

The recently acquired Backeye Press in the United States has, says Trinity, made a "substantial contribution to divisional profitability."

Shares rose 8p to 205p on the results.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN WORLD MARKETS

CHINA

Source of high quality low cost yarn. Further joint venture opening later this year.

TAIWAN AND KOREA

Entry into new and growing thread markets.

INDIA

Source of U.K. CAD-designed woven shirtings for leading High Street retailer.

JAPAN

Partner with Japanese in Europe's most advanced fabric dyeing and finishing plant.

PORTUGAL AND TURKEY

Entry into developing Mediterranean thread markets.

UK

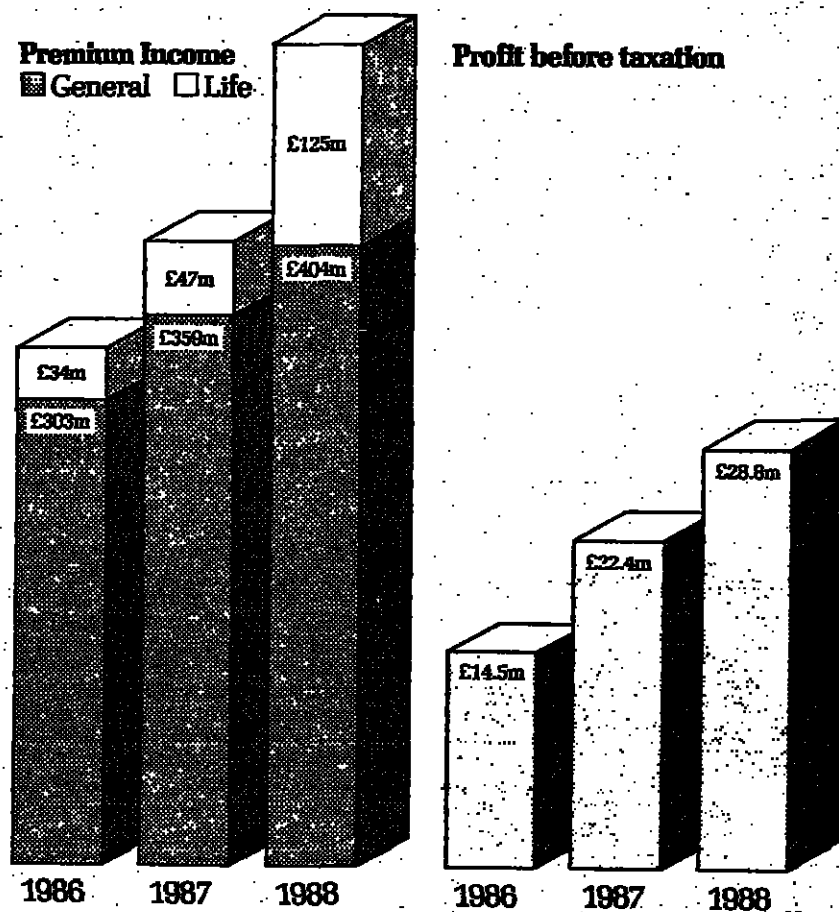
Launch of hi-tech specialised materials for new generation surgical gowns.

Tootal Group — an international marketing led group with sales of £500 million, operating in over 20 countries, marketing its products in over 60 countries. The Group's strategy is the development and utilization of its global marketing, distribution and sourcing skills.

Tootal Group

For more information write to: Audrey Lloyd-Kitchen, Director of Corporate Affairs, Tootal Group plc, Tootal House, 19/21 Spring Gardens, Manchester M60 2TL.

Cornhill Insurance 1988 Results



| | 1988 | 1987 |
|---|--------|--------|
| Premium Income | £m | £m |
| General business | 404.4 | 356.7 |
| Life business | 125.3 | 48.8 |
| | 529.9 | 405.5 |
| Profits | | |
| Underwriting result | (14.4) | (15.0) |
| Investment income attributable to general insurance funds | 30.4 | 27.0 |
| General insurance profit | 16.0 | 12.0 |
| Shareholders' investment and other income | 9.3 | 7.1 |
| General business profit | 25.3 | 19.1 |
| Life business profit | 4.2 | 3.8 |
| Share of associated companies' result | (0.2) | (0.5) |
| Provision for staff profit-related share scheme | (0.5) | — |
| Profit before taxation | 28.8 | 22.4 |

Cornhill Insurance

Copies of the Report & Accounts may be obtained shortly from the Secretary at 32 Cornhill, London EC3N 3JL.

A member of the Allianz Group.

Christies celebrates 31% profit rise with scrip issue

By Margaret Pagan

Christies International, the rival auctioneer to Sotheby's, reports pre-tax profits 31 per cent higher at £42.5 million for 1988 and a three-for-one scrip issue.

The shares firmed another 7p to 825p, taking them close to a high for 1988, buoyed by bid speculation which is helped by the presence of Mr Robert Holmes à Court, the Australian entrepreneur, who has a 5.8 per cent holding. Mr Holmes à Court met Lord Carrington, the former Foreign Secretary and Nato chief who is Christies' new chair-

man, in Australia recently and assured him the stake was long-term.

Lord Carrington said the quality and range of art coming for auction, together with current price levels, is most encouraging. Christies is optimistic for 1989.

Sales rose 30 per cent to £779 million with turnover (commission and premiums) up 24 per cent to £120.3 million. The bulk of turnover was due to the successful sales of Impressionist and modern art works. Earnings per share improved from 45.41p to 59p

and a final dividend of 15p makes a total of 19p - up 46 per cent.

The highlight of the year was the sale of Picasso's *Acrobate et Jeune Fille* for £20.9 million, the most expensive twentieth century work of art and not far from the highest sum ever paid for a painting - Van Gogh's *Irises*. The sale of the Goetz Collection in New York for \$85 million (£49.4 million) was another coup, a record for the sale of a single collection.

Christies provides ample evidence that despite tougher

economic climes, the rich continue to pour money into art. More than 100 lots were sold for sums greater than \$1 million and eight of these made more than \$10 million, ranging from books and silver to sculpture.

The auctioneer continued to fix sales for the nation, either by direct private sales to public collections or offers in lieu of tax.

Christies says that art sales this year have started well with Impressionist sales coming up soon in London and New York.

CEGB charge to rise 5.8%

By Colin Nibbrough

The Central Electricity Generating Board yesterday published for the last time the wholesale price it charges the area boards for power, setting the increase in the Bulk Supply Tariff (BST) at an average 5.8 per cent from April 1.

Next year the CEGB will be transformed into National Power, one of the two generating companies that form part of the electricity privatisation strategy. With the area boards due for simultaneous flotation next spring the price the generating companies charge for wholesale electricity will be subject to contract and will be a commercial secret. The area boards, however, will have to continue to disclose what they charge consumers.

Mr John Baker, managing director of CEGB and chief executive designate of National Power, underlined that the 5.8 per cent price rise was below the expected and current rate of inflation. As the BST accounts for 80 per cent of the costs the area boards recover through retail prices, the increase points to retail prices held within the expected inflation range of 7-8 per cent.

Mr Baker said the increase, which will run until area boards switch to contracts in January, improved the CEGB's return on assets and allowed it to do maintenance work on generating plant.

The BST is expected to provide a guideline for prices in the first quarter next year, when area boards will still be under government control.

The new price level will bring the CEGB £9.6 billion in revenue, raising trading profit to £1.1 billion from £864 million. The BST shows little structural change but a 9.6 per cent rise in the night rate surprised some in industry.

COMMENT David Brewerton Tears over the terrible twins from the MMC

Bob Hawke was not the only Australian politician to break into tears yesterday. John Elliott, president of the Australian Liberal Party, but more importantly chairman of Elders IXL, saw his plans to double its share of the British beer market torn to shreds by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

If that did not reduce Mr Elliott to tears, then the second MMC report into the tied house system probably did. First, the Elders/Scottish and Newcastle situation. The ruling, which Lord Young has accepted, was as unexpected as it is illogical. In effect, the MMC is saying that there will be a decrease in competition if the fifth and sixth brewers in the league combine to become the second largest.

The illogicality is that there is already competition among the second half of the big six, but there is no brewer to challenge the market superiority of Bass. A combination of Elders' Courage and S&N would have given Bass a severe run for its market share.

So Bass, give or take 5,000 pubs, will be allowed to continue to dominate. As Mr Elliott said in Australia recently, "take away the tie and Bass will walk all over us." And everybody else.

It is painfully clear that Elders upset the authorities mightily when it raised the market for S&N shares, and is now paying the price. Its acquisition of S&N would not have produced greater concentration of brands, and given the changes recommended (but not yet adopted) in the tied house system, Elders' grip on the retail market would have been 2,000 pubs, rather than the 4,000 that Courage and S&N will be able to control between them.

The big question is, what happens to S&N now? Elders has been given a year to reduce its 23.6 per cent shareholding to below 9.9 per cent, but in reality it

will not wish to retain other than a very token presence on the S&N share register.

There is a possibility that another willing predator will be found, but a frontal assault on the British beer industry looks uninviting in the light of the terrible twins from the MMC yesterday.

S&N may decide to try to cement its relationship with Carlsberg by encouraging Carlsberg to buy the Elders holding, but that would be a very expensive piece of mortar indeed. Better, probably, for S&N to seek shareholders' approval to buy the shares itself, much as BP bought in the Kuwait Investment Office shareholding after the MMC found against it. S&N would probably have to sell Thistle Hotels to pay for them. Either way, it will be a long time before S&N sees 400p again, and may even move the wrong side of 300p before the price stabilizes.

As for the report into the tie, it is riddled with the inconsistencies which still dominate merger policy in this country. On the one hand, British business is being urged to think European, to rationalize and prepare to take on the world. On the other, the MMC is saying that market forces are insufficient to control the industry and that artificial restraints on trade have to be introduced.

The report has not yet been accepted by Lord Young, although he is "minded" to implement the proposals. In the meantime he will face a fight from the brewers, not least because of the appalling lack of differentiation between the various types of licensed premises which they own.

Several brewers, for instance, are in the property business, and it would seem unfair if they were allowed to deal in any kind of property other than the one they know best: licensed premises.

British pensions are best

Pension funds and their anxious trustees are being bombarded with trendy management gimmicks developed across the Atlantic: separate consultants on asset allocation; hiring and firing managers on short-term performance; and the sort of computerized portfolio protection techniques that triggered the October 1987 crash.

But the WM Company, the leading international pension fund performance analyst, advises them to stand by the solid old-fashioned virtues of long-term investment and judgement.

WM reckons British company pensions are the most successful in the world at managing their assets, mainly because they make long-term judgements and stick to them. As a result, they have 83 per cent of their funds in real assets, such as shares and property.

They also have more in overseas shares than funds abroad. Funds that stuck to property in the thin times, and

overseas shares after the crash, performed particularly well last year.

In 1988, all but 2 per cent of funds beat the 6.8 per cent inflation rate. The average return was 13.8 per cent, with £1 billion funds returning 15 per cent while smaller funds (which had previously done better) delivering only 11.5 per cent.

The switch to shares has been the long-term road to success. The average fund ended 1988 with 53 per cent of its assets in UK shares (against 44 per cent a decade ago), 16 per cent in overseas shares (up from 6 per cent in 1979), 10 per cent in property (down from 22 per cent), and just 10 per cent in UK bonds (down from 23 per cent).

But as many conventional funds mature away from their fast development phase, WM reckons the shrinking of the national debt may leave them a problem: what to invest in safely for income?

Modest increase at Bunzl

By Geoffrey Foster

Bunzl, the worldwide distribution, packaging and specialist manufacturing group, increased pre-tax profits by a modest 9 per cent from £85.7 million to a record £93.3 million in 1988. Trading profits rose 24 per cent to £100.5 million, and turnover jumped 19 per cent, from £1.47 billion to £1.75 billion.

As a result of the group's continuing divestment programme, a new accounting policy has been adopted whereby provisions are made for the anticipated costs of withdrawing from a business segment. As a result, trading profits of £4.4 million before taxation were charged to extraordinary items.

Earnings per share rose 7 per cent to 14p (13.1p) with a final dividend of 3.3p making a total of 5.7p (5p).

Mr James White, the chairman, said that gearing at the year-end was 69 per cent, but impending disposals would mean a reduction.

London & Met up to £13.8m

By Cliff Feltham



Rapid progress since listing: David Lewis of London & Met

London & Metropolitan, the property company which is a member of the consortium planning to redevelop County Hall in the capital, has sharply increased pre-tax profits to £13.8 million for the year to end-December, compared with £9 million previously.

The dividend is up from 4.75p to 6.2p. Earnings per share advanced from 15.9p to 20.5p.

Mr David Lewis, the chief executive, has rapidly expanded its development programme since the company came to the stock market in November 1986. He said the group intended to build up its property investment portfolio, and progress was encouraging in the early part of 1989.

The development of 20-21 St James Square in London with Kumagai Gumi, the Japanese investment group, is due for completion in July and is expected to produce record rental levels.

The award-winning Watchmoor Business Park is due for completion this year, and a 15-acre site near Heathrow has been acquired for another park.

Halifax results advance 32%

By Vivien Goldsmith, Family Money Editor

The Halifax, Britain's biggest building society, delivered impressive figures for 1988 with pre-tax profits up 32 per cent at £461 million.

For the first three quarters of the year cash flowed in as investors remained wary of the stock market, and the house market boomed. The Halifax's net lending soared by 73 per cent to £5,950 million and its net share of the mortgage market rose from 10.5 per cent to 14.5 per cent. Savings rose by 59 per cent to

£5,055 million. Autumn interest rate rises have, however, now brought a slowdown in the housing market.

But Mr Richard Hornby, chairman, said: "By any standard, building society or plc, these are very good results."

The rival Abbey National increased profits by 17.6 per cent and expanded net lending by 31 per cent. But Dr John Wriglesworth, of Phillips & Drew, the broker, says: "The Halifax has impressive growth rates compared with the Ab-

bey National, but in profitability terms it is starting from a much lower base. Abbey National profitability is still streets ahead of the Halifax."

Mr Hornby said retained profits would still be the main source of new capital.

The Halifax has built a chain of 620 estate agencies, which meant writing off £100 million in 1987 and £67 million in 1988. Income from commission on endowment policies sold by the society were 25 per cent of income.

Paterson, Zochonis hit by sterling strength

By Wolfgang Münch

Paterson, Zochonis, the toilet-ries manufacturer, reports a £1 million fall in pre-tax profits to £10.92 million for the six months to the end of November. Turnover increased by about £11 million to £105 million.

The fall came partly as a result of the strength of sterling which hit sterling profits of its Nigerian operations, which account for about a quarter of group profits. How-

ever, Paterson was able to maintain market share in Nigeria. Following a profit warning in December, the results came as no surprise to the market and the shares remained at 323p.

Second-half profits are expected to be in line with the first half.

Earnings per share fell from 15.54p to 13.81p, but the interim dividend has been raised from 1.85p to 1.95p.

De Beers raises price of diamonds by 15.5%

By Our City Staff

De Beers Consolidated Mines said its London-based Central Selling Organisation will raise rough diamond prices by an average of 15.5 per cent at its sale next Tuesday.

The size of the increase reinforces the view that the diamond market is firm, especially after a 13.5 per cent increase last May which was regarded by many analysts as excessive.

The diamond company

added that the market for middle-range diamonds, under two carats in rough form, has been particularly strong. The latest price rise is the fifth in three years.

The OFT said it is still following up a monopoly complaint against the selling organization lodged this year by Consolidated Gold Fields, currently under takeover threat from Minorco, partly owned by De Beers.

True-blue Brown in the pink

The Keith Brown who has just been made a director of British Aerospace is, I can reveal, none other than the top-ranked banking analyst who is these days a managing director at Morgan Stanley, responsible for all its European and Far Eastern banking research. Brown, aged 46, and previously managing director of W Greenwell, is a government appointment - the Government has a golden share in BAE - and he attributes his appointment to his earlier activities in the Young Conservatives. "I was once national vice-chairman of the Young Conservatives and in the 1974 general election I unsuccessfully contested the Labour seat in Grimsby," he tells me. "I kept in contact with the friends I made during that period, and most of them have gone on to greater political things." His political career also included a 10-year stint on Brentwood District Council, but he says that it was after the 1974 election, and with the stock market crashing, that he opted for a City career instead. "I was working at Greenwells at the time, in research and statistics, and I managed to survive the jobs purge then going on. It was a salutary experience because I made me realize that I had to choose between the two." It was those same political contacts which led to Brown's appointment, five years ago, to the board of London Regional Transport, a post he still holds.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Kaplan scores again

Proving that there is a will - and plenty of money - there is a way, Gilbert Kaplan, the Wall Street economist turned publisher of *Institutional Investor*, has been enjoying unprecedented success. His conducting of Gustav Mahler's Second Symphony, recorded for the UK and European markets on the Pickwick label, has now moved into the number one spot in the Classical Charts.

published in *The Times*, Kaplan is thought to be the first amateur conductor to have reached such heights. The recording, on compact disc, was released last November and has already sold more than 50,000 copies worldwide. Introduced to the work when he was invited to a concert by a friend, Kaplan fell in love with it, and, despite having almost no musical training, learned to conduct it expertly.

Ox fab

A present for the man who has absolutely everything: Lyle & Scott has produced eight men's sweaters made from the fleece of musk oxen - an endangered species which looks like a cross between a sheep and an ox and is found

only in the most remote regions of Alaska. Said to be much softer, lighter, warmer and finer than cashmere, and costing around £500 apiece, the V-neck pullovers are on sale at the Knightsbridge branch of The Scotch House. "Wearing one of these garments is like wearing something made out of smoke," says a spokesman.

Shake 'n' fax

A Big Mac, fries and the latest news from Wall Street are all the rage in downtown Houston, Texas. Customers at McDonald's new hamburger joint there can monitor the New York Stock Exchange on an electronic ticker at the restaurant, receive telephone calls at their tables or fax their orders through before they arrive. "It has the businessman's needs in mind," says Brenda Duncan, McDonald's marketing chief.

Entente not so cordial

It is reassuring or worrying to discover that that caricature of the insular Brit, unable to speak any foreign languages and content simply to speak his native tongue louder while in foreign climes, has counterparts elsewhere in the European Economic Community? *The Times Guide to 1992*, a handbook to the impending event written by Richard Owen and Michael Dynes, two of this newspaper's foreign correspondents, and published last week, raises this very concern. According to Owen and Dynes, the West Germans are just as bad at speaking - or should that be not speaking? - foreign languages as any monolingual Colonel Blimp. Furthermore, while on many Continental trains, passport and customs checks have already been cut back to the minimum. "Anyone taking a train from France to Italy, or from Italy to France, along the Riviera Coast, having to change at the border and pass through customs only to find that trains on either side of the border do not connect, will reflect that the French and Italians also have a long way to go before they regard one another as part of the same integral market." They therefore conclude that, contrary to the idealism of its founders, there is a danger that "the EEC will degenerate into xenophobia as nationalist feelings come to the fore in a belated reaction against 1992." Clearly, and with another three years still to go, we ain't seen nothing yet.

Carol Leonard

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'The merger may be expected to have

Lord Young, the Trade Secretary, yesterday blocked the £1.6 billion takeover bid by Elders IXL for Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, on the recommendation of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Here is an edited excerpt from the MMC's report

During the winter of 1987 and in 1988 Elders IXL Ltd (Elders) acquired a substantial shareholding in Scottish & Newcastle Breweries (S&N). Elders, a conglomerate based in Australia which had acquired another United Kingdom brewer, Courage, in 1986 and also owns brewing companies in Australia and Canada, made a full bid for S&N in October 1988. The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry referred this bid, "the merger in contemplation," to the Commission on November 1988.

We have considered the extent to which Elders' shareholdings, by far the largest individual shareholding in S&N, enable it to control or materially to influence the policy of S&N. We have decided that while Elders would not be able to control S&N, it could use its shareholding materially to influence the policy of the company. We have therefore to consider the public interest in relation to both the "merger in contemplation" and the "merger in being".

ber 9 1988.

On the day the merger reference was announced Elders acquired a further substantial block of shares taking its total holding to 23.6 per cent. The Secretary of State made a second reference, "the merger in being," on December 7.

The public interest issues: We have been concerned in this case with a proposed, strongly contested, merger between two of the six largest United Kingdom brewers which, through their integrated businesses, supply some 75 per cent of the beer in the United Kingdom...We

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Scottish and Newcastle workers celebrate their victory with cans of beer at Edinburgh's Fountain Brewery yesterday

have seen the report of a different Commission group on the Supply of Beer, which was delivered to the Secretary of State during the later stages of the present inquiry.

Elders considered that as Courage is mainly based in the south of England, there would be no reduction in competition from the brewer.

It was argued that the enhanced range of the new group, together with the size of its tied estate, comparable with that of Bass, the United Kingdom's largest brewer, would enhance competition. Elders also stressed that the larger grouping would be better placed to resist the "continuing in-laws" and the

S&N is a major supplier of beer to the "free" trade to many parts of the United Kingdom, including the south of England. Courage is also a major competitor for this trade. Elders plans to rationalize the production, distribution and marketing of the two companies. We consider that the loss of the independence of one of the major suppliers to the market would reduce consumer choice and competition and thus be detrimental to the public interest, which requires that competition, particularly for the business of free public houses, be maintained and enhanced.

The brewers own relatively few of the public houses in Scotland and Bass and S&N together supply 80 per cent of the beer. We consider that the merger would reinforce the duopoly and thus increase the difficulty of new entry into the Scottish market. It would also remove the possibility of Courage entering the market on its own.

We do not agree with Elders that the merger, by creating a competitor of the same size as Bass, would be pro-competitive. On the contrary, we consider that the creation of a second large group, which together with Bass would supply over 40 per cent of the market, would result in reduced competition and increased difficulty of supply for other brewers and distributors.

We cannot in mitigation of these adverse effects place sufficient weight on Elders' view, which S&N denies, that the merger would significantly improve the prospects of exporting beer from the United Kingdom. Neither do we believe that, given the wide range of ales and lagers that are required by the consumer in the United Kingdom, the existing British brewers will be severely disadvantaged after 1992 when competing with Continental lager brewers in

S&N suggested that the gearing and other aspects of the finances and management control of Elders would be detrimental to the success of the new group if the merger was allowed. In view of our adverse findings in relation to competition, we have not taken these matters into account. We have noted, however, that Elders' policies

● **Elders should be required to reduce its S&N shareholding to 9.9 per cent ●**

might result in the sale of certain of S&N's subsidiary companies which would affect the spread of interest which attaches to S&N's position as an independent company directly managed in Scotland.

We have found that the merger in contemplation may be expected to have serious adverse effects on competition in the brewing industry and that there are no benefits to offset the detriments. We have therefore recommended that the merger should not be allowed.

Continued on next page

COMPANY BRIEFS

ROYAL SOV. (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.48 (20.94)m
EPS: 16.7 (16.1)p
Div: 4.3 m/cp 5.5p

Previous dividend 3.6 mkg 4.6p. Current year started well with continued expansion in core business. Acquisitions sought.

BURFORD HLDGS. (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.43 (£1.02)m
EPS: 1.9 (2.7)p
Div: 0.281 mksd 0.5p

Company very enthusiastic for future with hopes for highly satisfactory year.

EADIE HLDGS. (Fin)
Pre-tax: \$1.29 (\$0.32)m
EPS: 5.76 (1.64)p
Div: 1.1 mks 2.0p(1.5)p

Previous dividend 0.75 mkg 1.5p
The group has indicated an encouraging start to 1989.

STAR COMPUTER (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.63 (£0.47)m
EPS: 3.5 (3.0)p
Div nil

Acquisition strategy to be pursued. Company confident that remainder of financial year will produce further growth

DEAN & BOWES (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.38 (£0.93)m
EPS: 11.33 (8.65)p
Div Payout: 284/184

Company well positioned to take advantage of continuing substantial growth in market in which it operates.

WESTERN MOTOR (Fin)
Pre-tax: £10.08 (£5.76)mt
EPS: 77.9 (59.9)p
Div 8.5 mks 12c

Company proposes to raise £12.5m net of expenses by means of a 1-for-4 rights issue at 55p per share.

LINREAD (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.84 (£2.26)m
EPS: 15.17 (12.47)p
Div 3.25 mks 4.75c

EPS adjusted for scrip issues.
Previous dividend 2.5 mkg 3.75p
Company looks forward to
further progress

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

| First Dealings March 20 | Last Dealings April 7 | Last Declaration June 29 | For Settlement July 10 |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Call options were taken out on: 21/3/80 Control Securities, Bute Resources, Scottish & Newcastle, C Baynes, Rosebush, Associated British Engineering, British & Commonwealth, Wurburg, Conroy, EBC, Portland, Amrad, Midland & Scot, Satchi & Satchi, Inry. | | | |
| Put: Satchi & Satchi. | | | |

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

| | Daily | | | | | Pete | | | | | Daily | | | | | Pete | | | | |
|-----------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | Stages | Jan | Oct | Jan | Oct | Stages | Jan | Oct | Jan | Oct | Stages | Jan | Oct | Jan | Oct | Stages | Jan | Oct | Jan | Oct |
| Ally Lyon | 420 | 38 | 62 | - | 2 | 10 | - | - | - | - | P & O | 550 | 38 | 62 | 50 | 22 | 27 | 41 | 66 | 10 |
| "(466) | 200 | 18 | 82 | - | 11 | 28 | - | - | - | - | "(712) | 700 | 18 | 82 | 100 | 22 | 27 | 41 | 66 | 10 |
| Bel Air | 180 | 18 | 23 | 27 | 2 | 8 | 9 | - | - | - | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| "(168) | 180 | 18 | 23 | 27 | 2 | 8 | 9 | - | - | - | "(257) | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| "(50) | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | "(257) | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| "(50) | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | "(257) | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| "(50) | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | "(257) | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
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| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| "(50) | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | "(257) | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
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| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
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| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
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| "(50) | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | "(257) | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| "(50) | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | "(257) | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| "(50) | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | "(257) | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| "(50) | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | "(257) | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| "(50) | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | "(257) | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| "(50) | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | "(257) | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| "(50) | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | "(257) | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| "(50) | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | "(257) | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| "(50) | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | "(257) | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| "(50) | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | "(257) | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
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| "(50) | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | "(257) | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| "(50) | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | "(257) | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
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| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
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| "(50) | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | "(257) | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
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| Bell Com | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | Blackburn | 240 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
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| "(50) | 220 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | "(257) | 240 | 25 | 28 | | | | | | |



UK

RESPOND is the RAC's new Compensated Customer Support System. The first phase, run from our UK Data Centre, is just one of a number of facilities management contracts won in 1988.

NORWAY

The contract for the Norwegian Meteorological Message Switch was the fifth national meteorological system recently won in Europe, reinforcing SD-Scicon's position as a leading European supplier.



GERMANY

Project JASMIN, a study of the German sub-system within NATO's Battlefield Information Collection and Exploitation System.

FRANCE

In partnership with Bull, the major French owned computer manufacturer, we are developing the reservation and administration systems for the new Opéra Bastille in Paris, to be inaugurated during this year's celebrations of the Bicentenary of the French Revolution.



SPAIN

In Spain, one of Europe's fastest growing industrial economies, we have established a strong position in capital plant maintenance systems with five contracts in 1988 in the steelmaking, oil and electricity industries.

With the approach of the Single European Market in 1992, we are well placed to meet the challenge of servicing the needs of our present and future clients.

And in the USA our specialist companies servicing the financial and automotive sectors have maintained their strong market positions.

But whatever the areas of operations, our total commitment to quality of product, excellence of service and international strength underlines our strategy for the future.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

| | 1988 £'000 | 1987 £'000 |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Turnover | 221,565 | 83,644 |
| Operating Profit | 15,386 | 8,367 |
| Profit Before Tax | 13,354 | 7,363 |
| Earnings Per Ordinary Share | 4.01p | 3.84p |
| Dividends Per Ordinary Share | 0.75p | 0.65p |

Extract from preliminary announcement of results of 1988 based on unaudited accounts for the year to 31 December 1988. In respect of 1987, the above figures are based on accounts which contain an unaudited audit report and which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies. Earnings per share have been adjusted to take account of the rights issue in April 1988. The past is not necessarily a guide to the future.

Our 1988 Annual Report will be published in mid April. For a copy, please contact the Company Secretary, SD-Scicon plc, Centrum House, 101-103 Fleet Road, Fleet, Hampshire GU13 8NZ.

It all adds up to a successful year.

SD SCICON

SD-SCICON PLC

MONOPOLIES COMMISSION: ELDERS AND S&N

adverse effects on brewing competition'

Continued from previous page

We have found that the Elders shareholding in S&N, with the ability to materially influence its policy, would be capable of being used in a way that would influence the management of S&N. It would be detrimental to the public interest for a major brewing company to need to pay close attention to the wishes of one of its major competitors. We have therefore recommended that Elders should be required to reduce its shareholding in S&N to 9.9 per cent within a period of 12 months.

Special resolutions are necessary to provide the directors with increased borrowing powers and the authority to allot shares.

Courage supplies approximately 10 per cent and S&N approximately 11 per cent of total beer supply in the United Kingdom. Both companies have substantial estates of public houses, some 5,020 in the case of Courage and 2,270 in the case of S&N. If the merger were allowed, both companies together would have approximately the same number of public houses (some 7,000) and volume of beer sales (22 per cent) as the largest United Kingdom brewer, Bass.

Courage and S&N have most of their tied estates in the

south and north of England respectively. In a limited number of areas, in particular some parts of Yorkshire, the merger would lead to further concentration of public houses controlled by Courage and S&N.

There is no doubt, however, that a merger between Courage and S&N would bring under unified control a very large national tied estate. Such

Elders could use its shareholding to influence the policy of S&N

a large extension of tied ownership by one brewer would be highly detrimental to consumer choice.

One further factor which leads us to conclude that there would be a reduction in choice stems from the strong branding policy of Elders, particularly in relation to its main brand of lager, Foster's. Prior to its acquisition of Courage, Elders had entered into an agreement with Watney to produce and sell Foster's draught and bottled lagers in the United Kingdom. Foster's la-

gers have become one of Watney's major lager brands and, despite some changes in the licence agreement, Foster's will continue to be sold as a major lager brand in Watney's public houses and other outlets supplied by Watney.

There is also an agreement between Elders and the Mansfield Brewery and the latter is introducing Foster's as one of its lagers. If the merger takes place, Elders would be certain to introduce Foster's into all S&N outlets, at the expense of other brands, so this one lager would then become the main or one of the main lagers in the tied estate of Courage, Watney, Mansfield and S&N and would also be on sale in many of the free houses, some of which are tied by loans to Courage/S&N, Mansfield and Watney.

Competition for the free trade: Much of the rest of the on-licensed market is made up of clubs, restaurants and non-brewer-owned public houses. Practically all this free-trade business is supplied by the brewers through their own wholesaling operations. The ability of the relatively few free public houses to compete with the brewer-owned outlets is very important to competition.

Some of the non-brewer outlets, particularly those that

are owned by national chains, can expect to receive substantial discounts from the brewers' wholesale price lists. But a substantial proportion of the free trade, in volume terms probably well over 50 per cent, is supplied under arrangements where, in return for a subsidized loan from the brewer, the owner or licensee will grant the brewer an exclusive arrangement for the

Elders' policies might result in the sale of certain of S&N's subsidiary companies

supply of all or a substantial part of his supplies of beer and other drinks. This practice is often described as 'loan tying'.

The larger brewers are in a particularly strong position in relation to the loan-tied trade. S&N suggested that in many parts of the country there might at present be no more than four or five national brewers competing for this loan trade. If two of these merge, and a free-trade outlet wishes to have two suppliers, its choice will be very restricted.

Elders and S&N are major competitors for the free trade. Indeed S&N considers that it is possibly the leading brewer in the supply of beer to the free trade. S&N competes not only in the areas where it has a substantial tied estate but also in other areas including the south of England, where it owns very few outlets.

Courage told us that if the merger took place it would rationalize the wholesale operations of the merged company, closing depots where necessary so that the merged company would provide a single wholesaling operation in those parts of the country where it operates. Elders suggested that the bringing together of the range of beers now offered by the two companies into a single wholesaling operation would provide very effective inter-brand competition.

We agree that it is likely that, for some time, the merged group will continue to offer many of the products that are at present available from Elders and S&N. But in the longer term, to promote economies in brewing and in distribution, it seems to us inevitable that some products will receive less promotion: sales will therefore tend to fall away and brands will eventually be withdrawn.



Suffering a setback: John Elliott, chairman of Elders Ltd, the Australian owner of Courage

COMPANY BRIEFS

PLAXTON (15 months)
Pre-tax: £4.75 (£1.49m)
EPS: 14.7 (7.6p)
Div: 3.1 mkg 8.2p

FEDERATED HSG (Fin)
Pre-tax: £8.11 (£4.43m)
EPS: 38.8 (21.4p)
Div: 5p mkg 7.5 (6p)

BEMROSE CORP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £7.45 (£3.45m)
EPS: 38.28 (34.0p)
Div: 7 mkg 11 (10p)

ALD PART GRP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £9.85 (£3.61m)
EPS: 6.08 (4.22p)
Div: 1 mkg 1.75p

WORLD OF LEATHER (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.08 (£0.75m)
EPS: 16.8 (7.2p)
Div: 3.7 mkg 4.5p

DAUPHIN (Fin)
Pre-tax: £3.6 (£2.9m)
EPS: 11.01 (9.27p)
Div: 2.7 mkg 4p

CAIRN ENERGY (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.12 (£0.09m)
EPS: 1.71 (1.45p)
Div: nil

HEWITT (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.27 (£0.79m)
EPS: 4 (18.5p)
Div: nil

MINING AND ALLIED (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.7 (0.25m)
EPS: 1.46 (7.53p)
Div: nil

HALLS HOMES (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.0 (£1.4m)
EPS: 123 (8.1p)
Div: 6p (3.75p)

SHARPE AND FISHER (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.81 (£2.65m)
EPS: 8.1 (3.6p)
Div: nil

STHMPTON IOW (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.8 (£2.4m)
EPS: 50.47 (48.46p)
Div: 18 (17p)

BENCHMARK (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.85 (£0.62m)
EPS: 0.79 (0.75p)
Div: 0.75p (same)

JACOBS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.8 (£1.4m)
EPS: 2.98 (4.75p)
Div: 2.8 (2.7p)

A proposal to change company name to Plaxton Group to go before AGM. Trading proceeding generally to plan.

Company expects to show continued growth in turnover in 1989 by extending activities. Future viewed with confidence.

Group profits expected to be realized predominantly in the second half of the year.

EPS before exceptional items. Initial weeks of present financial year show market conditions remaining firm.

Previous dividend 3.2 mkg 3.2p. Further store openings planned for 1989. Company confident of another successful year.

Group well placed for further organic growth in expanding market. Suitable acquisitions being sought.

Turnover and profit will be substantially greater this year because of new cash flow from oil and gas.

Company says profit margins are unsatisfactory, changes are being made but may not show through in the current year.

Company hopes to return to the dividend list as soon as possible. Trading outlook is optimistic and orders healthy.

Orders and shipments for the current year are in line with last year but company has hopes for new product ranges.

Board forecasts a dividend of not less than 4p for the current year after benefit of acquisitions and lower debts.

Company expects much higher profile in marketing Red Funnel services. Confident of continued progress in 1989.

Current trading in the banking and investment divisions is encouraging and integration of Schavenian is going well.

PRUDENTIAL CORPORATION PROFITS UP 36% To £353M.

RESULTS 1988

| | 1988 £m | 1987 £m |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Trading profit before tax from: | | |
| Insurance business | | |
| Life, pensions and other long-term | 200.4 | 153.9 |
| General insurance | 87.4 | 41.0 |
| Non-insurance business | | |
| Investment management (UK) | 8.0 | 6.4 |
| Unit trusts and PEPs | (3.9) | 6.1 |
| Estate agency | 17.2 | 4.5 |
| Shareholders' other income | 43.5 | 48.1 |
| Total trading profit before tax | 352.6 | 260.0 |
| Transfer to revaluation reserve | (13.0) | (17.6) |
| Tax and minority interests | (108.1) | (67.9) |
| Profit attributable to shareholders | 231.5 | 174.5 |
| Earnings per share | 12.6p | 9.6p |
| Dividend per share | 8.0p | 6.8p |

The results reproduced here for the year 1988 have not yet been delivered to the Registrar of Companies, nor have the auditors reported on them.
The dividend will be paid on 31 May 1989 to shareholders on the register on 13 April 1989.

Copies of the Annual Report will be available after 4 May 1989 from
The Registrar's Department, Prudential Corporation plc, 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH.
PRUDENTIAL CORPORATION PLC

* Earnings per share increased by 31 per cent to 12.6 pence.

* Total dividend up by 18 per cent to 8.0 pence per share.

* Leadership in the UK personal pensions market maintained.

* Long-term revenue premiums increased by 24 per cent to £3.8 billion and profits by 30 per cent to £200 million. It is intended to increase the share of the distributed surplus going to shareholders' funds.

* Continued improvement in general insurance business. Profits rose from £41 million to £87 million largely reflecting a strong underwriting result in the UK.

* Further international expansion. More than half premium income from direct long-term business arose outside the UK. Continued rapid growth in the US market.



**PRUDENTIAL
CORPORATION**

THE TIMES GUIDE TO 1992

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by **RICHARD OWEN** and **MICHAEL DYNES**

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Clerical Medical Inspections Group comprises Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society and its subsidiaries.

Shares in Kwik-Fit slip despite record profits at £18.4m

By Geoffrey Foster

Shares of Kwik-Fit Holdings, the exhaust and tyre replacement group, fell 7p to 101p despite record annual pre-tax profits, up 15 per cent from £16 million to £18.4 million, on record turnover of £157.4 million, 25 per cent higher than last year's £125.5 million.

Analysts had forecast profits in the region of £21 million for the year, but one of the mildest winters on record put the brake on profits in the final quarter. The normal seasonal sales advance did not materialize and, in particular, exhaust sales suffered.

Kwik-Fit is recommending a final dividend of 1.36p making 2.40p for the year, up from 1.86p last time.

Mr Tom Farmer, the chairman, says the company expanded significantly throughout last year helped by the £34 million raised from last May's rights issue.

In 1988, 103 company-owned centres were opened



Tom Farmer: bullish

and, by the end of the year, Kwik-Fit was trading from 518 outlets in Britain and Europe.

The Automobile Association has given all the group's centres an "AA Approved" status and also awarded its prestigious "Seal of Approval" to Kwik-Fit's own-label tyres, exhausts, shock absorbers and batteries.

Mr Farmer is bullish about prospects and says the company is in a strong position.

Rebound to £1m profit for Cluff

Cluff Resources, the USM minerals exploration company, turned a loss of £2.16 million into a pre-tax profit of £1.19 million in 1988. Turnover almost trebled to £6.09 million. The company said output from its new mines is rising. Earnings per share were 1.3p (5.2p loss).

Handley rise

Handley-Walker Group, the management consultancy, increased pre-tax profits from £821,000 to £1.36 million last year. The final dividend of 3.6p makes 5.4p (3.9p).

Westmeath bid

Food Industries has increased its offer for Westmeath, the Irish group, from £660 to £670 per share. The increased offer is worth £11.73 million (£9.76 million) compared with the £69.85 million rival offer from Avocmore.

Kalon recovery

Kalon Group, the paints and chemicals manufacturer, made a pre-tax profit of £3.7 million last year against a loss of £1.45 million. Turnover was marginally down at £86.1 million. Earnings per share were 2.11p (1.01p loss). A final dividend of 0.7p makes 1p (nil).

Desoutter up

Desoutter Brothers (Holdings), reports a 23 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £7.39 million on turnover of £44.5 million (£40.3 million) for 1988. Earnings per share were 36.6p (30.1p). The final dividend is 8p, making 11p (9.1p).

Monotype in the black

By Our City Staff

The Monotype Corporation, which makes laser-based typesetting systems, made pre-tax profits of £1.29 million in its second interim period to end-December compared with a loss of £1.62 million in the six-month period to end-June. The financial year has been changed to end-March.

Turnover rose from £20.06 million to £25.76 million in

the second six months. Monotype said 1988 saw trading difficulties in the laser equipment market. It is selling its 67 per cent of Chelgraph Products to De La Rue Company for £4 million. Earnings per share were 3.4p, against a loss of 10.5p in the first six months. There is no second interim dividend after 1.7p for the first six months.

RECENT ISSUES

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Ass Brit Consult (155p) | 168 |
| Ass Farmers | 70 |
| Bardon Group | 195 |
| Betson (82p) | 77 |
| Brit Steel P/L (80p) | 83½ |
| Capital Leasing (44p) | 73 |
| Cassidy Bros (44p) | 63 |
| Charwell Express (70p) | 128½ |
| CLF Yocum | 408 |
| Compass Group (245p) | 358 |
| Embassy Prop (100p) | 212 |
| Europe Minerals (100p) | 118 |
| Farquhar (125p) | 143 |
| Graham Wood (185p) | 213 |
| Hoskins Brewery | 211½ |
| Johnson Group (47p) | 42½ |
| National Freight | 255 |
| Planning Research (120p) | 138 |
| Podding (20p) | 42½ |
| Quillgrove (25p) | 74½ |
| R & V Info Sys (80p) | 76 |
| Ross Catering (125p) | 108 |
| Sandell (117p) | 122 |
| Secure Trust (140p) | 200 |
| Shelf Hops (140p) | 158 |
| Sh Africa Land | 92 |
| Tollgate Hops | 55 |
| Venture Plant (85p) | 75 |
| Wentworth (25p) | 120½ |
| Cullens N/P | 1½ |
| Hampden N/P | 6 |
| Lazio N/P | 77½ |
| ML Laboratories N/P | 168 |

ALPHA STOCKS

| Vol '000 | Vol '000 | Vol '000 | Vol '000 |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| ADT 428 | CU 758 | Laporte 480 | Sainsbury 1,298 |
| Abbey 1,814 | Corn Gold 289 | LAG 1,721 | Scott & N 848 |
| Ad-Jones 11,188 | Coulson 241 | Lloyds 300 | Seas 3,030 |
| Amstrad 1,757 | Courtauld 593 | Lorino 777 | Sedgwick 1,581 |
| ASDA 2,733 | Dalrymple 488 | Lucas 732 | Shall 4,468 |
| AB Foods 182 | Dunne 1,547 | Luca 201 | Shib 316 |
| Argyll 1,233 | ECC 385 | MAS 3,521 | Slough 117 |
| BAA 1,144 | Enterprise 640 | McGraw Hill 194 | Smith & N 2,385 |
| BET 1,082 | Farrant 2,888 | MB Group 1,888 | Smith WH 252 |
| BIR 3,653 | Fisons 1,518 | MPC 134 | Smith Ind 346 |
| BAT 2,210 | FWD Babcock 943 | Midland 781 | STC 1,881 |
| Barclays 815 | Gateway Co 1,485 | NadWest 324 | Stan Chart 461 |
| Bentley 4,305 | Gen Acc 810 | Nest 300 | Stanley 2,372 |
| Beecham 1,028 | GEU 2,757 | NFI Food 535 | Sun Alliance 159 |
| Benson 277 | Glaxo 1,080 | P&O 1,701 | T & N 553 |
| Bentley Ind 748 | Globe Ind 254 | Peat 13 | Tarmac 1,455 |
| BICC 1,124 | Glynwed 182 | Pearson 228 | Tate & Lyle 778 |
| Blue Arrow 3,882 | Granada 484 | Pillington 3,858 | Taylor Wood 33 |
| Blue Circle 765 | Grand Met 1,485 | Plessey 347 | TBS 1,841 |
| BOC 1,491 | GUS W 387 | Poly Pack 688 | Tesco 1,394 |
| Boco 475 | GSE 600 | Prudential 3,117 | Thomson 563 |
| BPS 1,305 | GKN 1,213 | Racal 3,938 | Tridax 2,225 |
| Br Aero 3,888 | Guthrie 1,783 | Rail Tel 444 | TIP 2,558 |
| Br Airways 875 | Hamm A 130 | Rk Hovis 533 | Ultramar 1,574 |
| Br Comm 1,735 | Hanson 3,432 | Rank 147 | Unigate 470 |
| Br Glaxo 10,113 | H & C 320 | R&C 417 | Unilever 321 |
| Br Land 949 | Hawker 695 | Redland 285 | United Btl 3,215 |
| Br Petrol 8,224 | Hilldown 2,322 | Reed 798 | Unit News 346 |
| Br Steel 11,255 | H & S 728 | Reasers 682 | Wellcome 170 |
| Br Telecom 1,218 | ICI 2,848 | Reliance 814 | Whitbread 489 |
| Burd 6,084 | Inchcape 305 | RTZ 1,113 | Williams 1,272 |
| Burns 647 | Jaguar 428 | R-Royce 2,085 | White Fab 352 |
| Burns 2,653 | Kingsfisher 1913 | Rolltime 15 | Wingway G 778 |
| CAW 2,978 | Lazio 2,191 | Royal Bank 337 | |
| Cadbury 3,541 | Ladbroke 1,080 | Royal Ind 422 | |
| Cells 1,918 | Land Sec 1,381 | Saschi 485 | |

MINORCO: THE INTERIM RESULTS

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF EARNINGS

| US\$ millions | 6 months ended December 31 | Year ended June 30 |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Unaudited | 1988 | 1987 |
| Dividend income | 41.5 | 30.8 |
| Interest and other income | 45.3 | 17.0 |
| Revenues | 86.8 | 47.8 |
| Expenses | (3.3) | (2.4) |
| Earnings before taxes | 83.5 | 45.4 |
| Foreign taxes | (0.8) | (1.0) |
| Earnings from operations | 82.7 | 44.4 |
| Share of undistributed earnings of investments accounted for by the equity method | 54.0 | 95.1 |
| Minority interest in earnings of subsidiary companies | (0.6) | (0.6) |
| Earnings before extraordinary items | 136.1 | 138.9 |
| Extraordinary items | (10.3) | 514.8 |
| Net earnings | 125.8 | 653.7 |
| US \$ per share | | |
| Earnings per share (170.3 million shares outstanding): | | |
| From operations | \$0.49 | \$0.26 |
| Earnings before extraordinary items | 0.80 | 0.82 |
| Net earnings | 0.74 | 3.84 |
| Dividends per share | \$0.14 | \$0.10 |

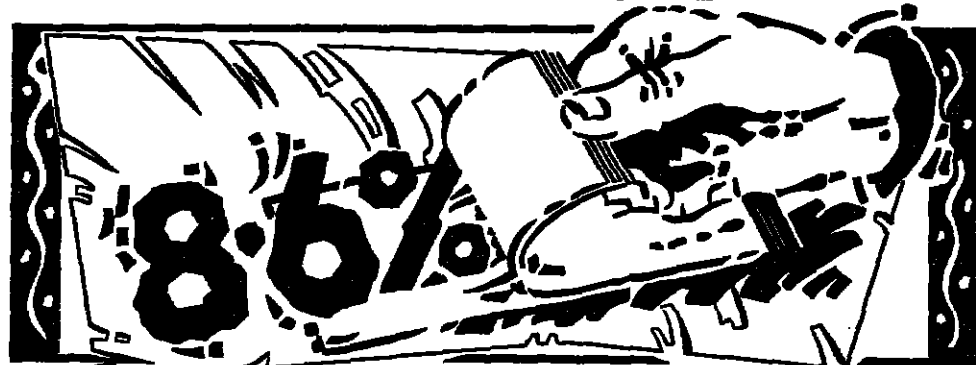
The interim dividend for the year to June 30, 1988 of 14 US cents is payable on May 8, 1989 to shareholders of record on March 31, 1989. The interim report will be mailed to shareholders on March 22, 1989. Copies may be obtained from the UK transfer agent: Hill Samuel Registrars Limited, 6 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1PL.

MINORCO

Minorco Societe Anonyme, Luxembourg.

The Directors of Minorco are the persons responsible for the information contained in this advertisement. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the Directors of Minorco (who have taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case) the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information. The Directors of Minorco accept responsibility accordingly.

Now...a cheque account which is creating a lot of interest...currently up to 8.6% Net.



Have you ever wished that the money in your current account could be earning you high interest?

Well now you can - simply by opening a Barclays Prime cheque account.

The Prime Account is a high interest account which also gives you most of the facilities you normally associate with a current account: cheque book, direct debit and standing order facilities with up to 12 free debits each quarter. Each additional cheque or debit will cost just 50p.

So it makes good sense to keep as much in your Prime Account as possible, and use standing orders or direct debits to fund your regular monthly outgoings, such as your mortgage or credit card accounts.

In addition, there is also a foreign and telegraphic money transfer service. (The charges being subject to the Bank's normal rate for money transmission services.)

The cheque account that earns you money

As long as you keep a minimum of £1,000 in the account, you will earn interest at Barclays Prime Rate, currently 8.5%.

What's more, the interest is calculated on a daily basis on the cleared balance, and added to your account quarterly.

And if you keep over £2,500 in the account, we'll add an extra 0.30% to the Barclays Prime Rate.

So by putting your money into a Barclays Prime Account, you could be earning far more than from other interest-bearing cheque accounts.

Flexibility, convenience - and instant access to your money.

Apart from the high interest, your Barclays Prime Account is similar to other cheque accounts. Naturally you can pay into and out of it at any one of our 2,800 branches. Or, if you prefer, you can conduct your business by post and telephone. Please note accounts must always show a credit balance.

It's so easy to open a Barclays Prime Account

It couldn't be simpler to start earning interest on a cheque account. Just complete the Prime Account Application below and post it with a cheque for a minimum of £1,000 made payable to Barclays Prime Account.

As soon as we receive your application, we'll open your account and your money will start to earn interest. We'll also rush you a Barclays Prime Account pack containing your cheque book, paying-in book and a special statement wallet.

YOURS FREE

If you return your application by 25th April 1989 we'll send you the Superb Pocket Calculator Wallet free with our compliments. (Should demand exceed expectation we guarantee to supply you with an alternative gift of equivalent value.) Please allow 28 days for delivery.

If you would like to know more about the Barclays Prime Account, simply call our Helpline on 0604 254321. It's open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. And 9am-1pm on Saturdays.

BARCLAYS

BARCLAYS PRIME ACCOUNT

...another direct service from Barclays

The Bank reserves the right to review and amend the terms for assessing the interest rate at any time. Barclays Prime Account Office, PO Box No. 125 Northampton NN1 1YG.

Barclays Prime Account Application Form

Instructions: Please complete in block capitals and return this form, together with a cheque for a minimum of £1,000 to Barclays Prime Account, FREEPOST 2000 Dept. Code PM, Northampton NN1 1YG.

| | | |
|---|------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please open a Prime Account with the amount of £_____ in the name(s) of _____ | Home Tel. _____ | JOINT ACCOUNT |
| | Business Tel. _____ | Details of second party |
| 1/We have enclosed a cheque for the account (minimum £1,000) made payable to Barclays Prime Account. | Banker's Name _____ | 2. MR/MRS/MISS (Delete where applicable) |
| 1. MR/MRS/MISS (Delete where applicable) | Banker's Address _____ | Surname _____ |
| Surname _____ | Postcode _____ | Forename(s) _____ |
| Forename(s) _____ | Bank Sort Code _____ | Signature 2 _____ |
| Address _____ | Signature 1 _____ | Date _____ |
| Postcode _____ | Date _____ | |

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Johnson Group Cleaners Plc

ANOTHER RECORD YEAR

Preliminary Results for 1988

- Group turnover up 22% to £124m
- Record pre-tax profits up 59% to £18.4m
- Ordinary dividend per share up 24%
- Earnings per share up 54%
- Growing contribution from US operations
- The World's largest drycleaning organisation

The Johnson Group trades in the United Kingdom and the United States and is principally engaged in retail drycleaning and in textile rental.

In the UK, the Group comprises 13 companies with 750 shops:

| | | |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Bollom | James Hayes | Pullar |
| Crockatt | Johnson Brothers | Smiths |
| Harris | Johnson Micronclean | HF Wilton (Shoptitters) |
| Hartneclean | Kneels | Zernys |
| | Apparelmaster Design | |

In the United States, the Johnson Group controls 11 companies with 299 shops. In addition, there are 171 franchised shops.

[illegible]

The prices in this section refer to Monday's trading

UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was up at 96.6 (day's range 96.2-96.8).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for March 21

| | Range | Close | 1 month | 3 month |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| New York | 1.7145-1.7225 | 1.7220-1.7230 | 90-30p | 1.01-0.84p |
| Manila | 2.0483-2.0472 | 2.0508-2.0542 | 0.21-0.10p | 0.32-0.15p |
| London | 3.6229-3.6334 | 3.6205-3.6344 | 2-19p | 5-44p |
| Amsterdam | 67.67-67.68 | 67.67-67.68 | 13-23p | 13-23p |
| Copenhagen | 12.6195-12.5833 | 12.5826-12.5833 | 56-51p | 14%-13.90p |
| Dublin | 1.5305-1.5307 | 1.5304-1.5308 | 60-58p | 15%-16.40p |
| Frankfurt | 3.2111-3.2112 | 3.2115-3.2126 | 5-40p | 5-40p |
| Lisbon | 264.11-266.72 | 264.17-265.72 | 7-30ds | 25-11ds |
| Paris | 6.67-6.68 | 6.67-6.68 | 1-10p | 2-40p |
| Milan | 2254-27.27 | 2254-27.27 | 20-20p | 30-20p |
| Sao Paulo | 11.6930-11.7028 | 11.6940-11.7028 | 11%-13p | 41%-39p |
| Stockholm | 60.67-60.68 | 60.67-60.68 | 13-23p | 13-23p |
| Tokyo | 10.9369-10.9365 | 10.9365-10.9370 | 11%-15p | 41%-39p |
| Singapore | 224.42-225.25 | 224.67-225.37 | 11%-15p | 41%-39p |
| Wellington | 32.33-32.34 | 32.33-32.34 | 12-23p | 30-23p |
| Zurich | 21.6820-21.7113 | 21.6789-21.7213 | 11%-15p | 41%-39p |

Premiums to p.m. Discounted in cents

OTHER STERLING RATES

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina (sterling) | 71.545-72.047 |
| Australia (sterling) | 2.0504-2.0505 |
| Bahrain (sterling) | 0.9450-0.9580 |
| Bombay (sterling) | 1.7102-1.7103 |
| Ceylon pound (sterling) | 0.8210-0.8150 |
| Holland mark (sterling) | 7.22-7.23 |
| India (sterling) | 66.25-66.26 |
| Japan (sterling) | 1.5300-1.5301 |
| Hong Kong dollar (sterling) | 13.3389-13.3391 |
| India rupee (sterling) | 66.25-66.26 |
| Kenya (sterling) | 0.6250-0.6251 |
| Malaysia (sterling) | 4.7515-4.7590 |
| Malaya (sterling) | 4.7515-4.7590 |
| Malaya (sterling) | 4.7515-4.7590 |
| New Zealand dollar (sterling) | 2.7302-2.6910 |
| Saudi Arabian riyal (sterling) | 8.42-8.44 |
| South Africa (sterling) | 6.95-6.96 |
| S Africa rand (sterling) | 6.9575-7.1245 |
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MONEY MARKETS

[illegible]

THIRD MARKET

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

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COMMODITIES

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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Christopher Warr
Property CorrespondentFive-acre facelift
for a city centre

London may be in an unassailable position as the commercial centre in the UK, but Manchester has laid claim to second place with the announcement of a joint initiative between Manchester City Council and the Central Manchester Development Corporation which, it is claimed, will have far-reaching effects on the revitalization of a major sector of its city centre.

Nicholas Whipp, a senior partner of the development advisers, Grimley J. R. Eve, says the £60-million Great Bridgewater initiative, launched last week, represents "the most exciting development package yet to emerge outside London with outstanding opportunities for private sector participation and investment".

He believes that the proposals for the area, covering more than five acres, "will lead to an important extension and reshaping of existing commercial boundaries in step with the city's growing status as the UK's most buoyant financial/business centre next to London".

An integral part of the Great Bridgewater proposals aims to give impetus to the recently announced plans to build an international concert hall for the Hallé Orchestra on the Lower

New £60 million
development is the
'most exciting yet
outside London'

Mosley Street site. The three sites under consideration in the plan are Lower Mosley Street, the Great Bridgewater Depot, and the Free Trade Hall.

Brian Harrison, the chairman of the city's economic development committee, says it had commissioned consultants to assess a number of options for a change of use. "One of these is a conference or convention centre with about 1,200-seat capacity. Both objectives reflect our shared confidence in the recent English Tourist Board framework for tourism development which cited the area as potentially 'the most exciting and comprehensive visitor magnet in the UK outside London'."

The Great Bridgewater Street site has secondary frontage on to the Rochdale Canal and potential for a mix of residential and commercial schemes.

Dr James Grigor, the chairman of the Central Manchester Development Corporation, emphas-

sizes that the area was fast being recognized by developers and investors.

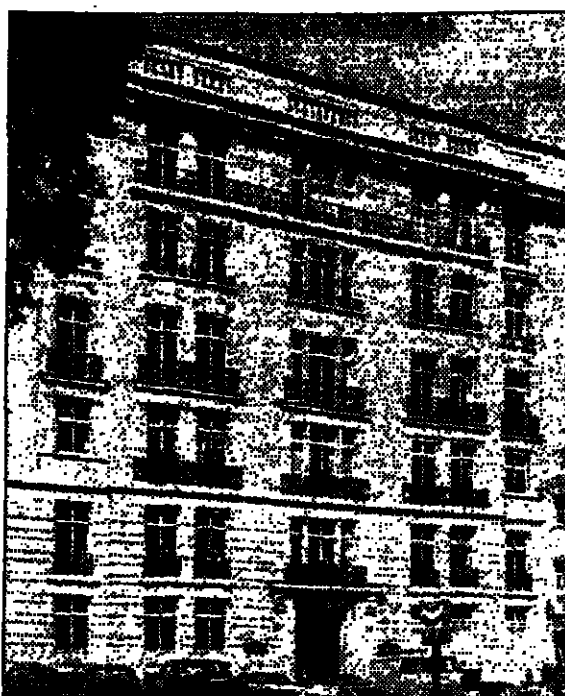
"Our partnership with the City Council, central government and the private sector will stimulate this growing interest to expand the role of the city centre, leading to its enhanced international status in the 21st century," he says.

The corporation, given planning and acquisition powers by the Government, has targeted £80 million funds over five years to unlock the potential.

Within the criteria outlined for the provision of a new concert hall and the change of use of the Free Trade Hall, the brief is flexible for the redevelopment.

According to Whipp: "We aim to short-list potential participants for the development of the three sites, either individually or as a package, by the middle of April and they will then be given three months to present detailed plans. With the stature and scope of the opportunities, we expect major national and international approaches as well as strong regional interest."

"Everything is in place, including the enthusiasm and support of the two main public sector partners. Now it is up to the private sector to respond to this massive opportunity."



Randsworth Trust has been granted planning consent for the redevelopment of 25 Berkeley Square, London W1 (above, left), headquarters of the Reader's Digest, which it acquired last year. The property, a prime location on the north-eastern corner of the square, looks towards Landsemane House, a redevelopment which achieved prime City of London status when let to Saatchi and Saatchi last year. The redevelopment (see artist's impression at right) of No. 25 keeps the Verity facade and the principal rooms to the front and the staircase. Work is expected to start later this year and completion is due in late 1990.



IN THE MARKET

County Hall Development Group has announced agreement for the development of a new £170 million five-star hotel, to be called the Grand Hyatt London, subject to planning permission, as part of the County Hall complex on the south bank of the Thames. The hotel will have 388 rooms and will be in part of the listed riverside building, looking across to Westminster. Trafalgar House Developments will carry out the project management, Willett (a Trafalgar House construction company) the conversion and Hyatt Inter-

national Corporation (which owns 144 hotels, including two in London) will manage the hotel for a new Hyatt and Trafalgar House Company. It is part of the £1.5 billion scheme in which the principal shareholders are drawn equally from the United Kingdom and Japan. The hotel's ownership will be shared between Hyatt, Trafalgar House and Shinyama Corporation, one of the biggest Japanese private landlords, which

will take on the majority holding. Speybank Mount Row, in partnership with Alton Group, has been selected by British Rail Property Board to carry out a 100,000 sq ft office development at Victoria station, London. In addition to the office accommodation, the development will contain ground-level station facilities for the "Battersea Buller", the high-speed train link between Victoria and Battersea power station, where Alton Group subsidiary Battersea Leisure is creating a huge leisure complex.

Seeking
fresh
fields

For those investors searching for new and prosperous fields, Birmingham is the answer, the property consultants Chesterton says in its annual survey of the city's office market. Rents for town centre office space have shown increases of more than 50 per cent since January 1988.

Rosemary Feenan, director of research at Chesterton, says: "Over an eight-year period, office property in Birmingham has shown a higher rental growth and increase in capital value than similar offices in the rest of the country except for those in prime London locations."

Facilities, including the National Exhibition Centre, the new International Convention Centre, Birmingham International Airport and several new developments, have helped to enhance the city as an important centre of business and commerce.

"The scramble for good quality accommodation has also resulted in a high level of pre-lets, and we expect rents of over £17 per square foot to be achieved by the end of this year," says Keith Jones, a partner in the firm's Birmingham office.

He explains that take-up levels for accommodation in Birmingham have been constrained only by the shortage of available space, which increased by only 3 per cent last year.

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MEDIA & MARKETING

Sound of success

Why Radio Luxembourg is still making waves after 55 years

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The secret of its success, according to Maurice Vass, its UK managing director, is its professionalism. "We supply the brightest type of music and entertainment in the world. Radio Luxembourg has remarkable ad pull. It takes sponsorship seriously. We take the sponsor with us in planning our programmes."

The station is transmitted from studios in Luxembourg, but Vass hopes to do more live broadcasting by land line from London via Luxembourg.

Radio Luxembourg's English language service on 208 metres is only part of CTL, a vast, privately owned media network, based in the Duchy.

Later this year it starts an ambitious new venture — a long wave commercial station, owned jointly with Ireland's Radio Telefís Éireann. Based near Dublin, it is expected to cover half of Britain.

But why has Radio Luxembourg not established a commercial radio station in Britain? The answer appears to be that the company likes to own its own transmitters, which is impossible here. "We have a transmission system unequalled in western Europe," Vass boasts. But could CTL bid for one of the new national commercial radio networks after radio deregulation? "It must be the sort of thing our people are looking at," he admits.

Andrew Lycett

Time Out's new national arts and entertainment monthly, 20/20, is based on "nothing other than a hunch", says its publisher Tony Elliott, which makes the magazine's launch this week something of a rarity in these cautious post-Riva magazine days of exhaustive market research and pre-launch tests.

Elliott does not believe "in that sort of thing". The founder, first editor and sole proprietor of Time Out, which started life in 1968 as a broad sheet and now sells 85,000 copies of each fat, glossy issue, prefers to rely on gut feeling. "It's an instinctual thing," he says. "I believe there is room out there for an editorially led, quality oriented, serious arts and entertainment magazine."

However, beneath his nonchalant exterior, the eternally youthful Elliott is too astute a businessman to take an uncalculated risk. He admits that 20/20's birth was "not quite as casual as it sounds". He has always felt that there was another magazine struggling to get out of Time Out and admits to having toyed with several prototypes for 20/20. His ideas crystallized, however, after Time Out bought style magazine i-D four years ago for £20,000 and the Paris-based English language glossy, Passion, last year for £30,000.

Elliott claims they have helped him to gain a clearer idea of the potential market outside London. And with the sixth sense for cultural undercurrents acquired



Serious stuff: the cover and inside of 20/20 magazines, with publisher Tony Elliott — "readers want news and current affairs, as well as the arts"



The publisher of Time Out tells Lisa O'Kelly of the hunches, gut feeling and calculated risks behind the launch of his new magazine

The Face, Blitz, Q, Sky and Arena.

"They carry no serious coverage of the arts. The problem is that they have remained too hooked on music, style and in people who may look interesting, but if you scratch them, turn out to be not as interesting as they appear. When these titles first launched, that was all well and good, it was part of the style ethos. But their readers have moved on now. They are interested now in serious issues and news and current affairs, as well as the arts."

In Elliott's view there is no magazine currently catering for this market apart from The Sunday Times Magazine, and he does not envisage the style magazine providing him with much competition. However, at least one of them is biting its nails about 20/20: Arena publisher Nick Logan refused to take an ad for it on the grounds that it is likely to sap his own advertising revenue. ("I think he's a bit embarrassed about that now," Elliott says gleefully.)

Printed in large type on the heavy matt paper made fashionable by the Independent Magazine, 20/20 looks and feels expensive. But Elliott claims that by using the existing Time Out editorial team, he has kept costs to a minimum, allowing him to keep the cover price reasonable (£1.50) and the advertising editorial ratio low (35:65). Primarily based around listings and previews, it also includes a strong general features section, which Elliott promises to expand.

Contrary to popular expectations, one function Elliott does not foresee 20/20 fulfilling is that of the television listings guide he has long wanted to be able to publish. Like

Murdoch Magazines' new TV Guide, he is awaiting the decision of the European Commission on whether the TV Times and Radio Times duopoly on television listings is finally to come to an end. If, and when, it does, he plans to run a television guide in the pages of Time Out, but does not feel it would be viable in a monthly like 20/20.

Elliott's immediate preoccupation is expanding the Time Out Guides on such subjects as eating out and shopping, which were launched six years ago. Next year, Penguin will publish Time Out Guides to London, Paris and New York, Elliott hopes, more cities to follow.

The fact that he has no plans for further launches or diversification, in many ways no surprise since, despite his radical roots, Elliott has always taken a conservative approach to expanding his business interests, now worth around £10 million. Indeed, 20/20 is only the third magazine that he has launched. After Time Out came Sell Out in the 1970s, an ill-fated enterprise, edited by Janet Street-Porter, which closed after half a dozen issues.

"I wouldn't say conservative," Elliott says. "Admittedly, I haven't built a huge magazine empire, but that's not because I'm conservative. It's because I find specialist magazines and the like, where the money is, extremely boring. I wouldn't want to own one. I do magazines I believe in."

'Time Out is one long pseudos' corner and 20/20 magazine is more of the same...

You need 20/20 vision to read Time Out, with its cramped listings and tiny typeface. So there is an unconscious irony in that 20/20 is also the title of Time Out's new arts monthly, published this week.

But it is much more clearly presented than its parent: expensive-looking, with glossy but non-reflective paper and a reasonably simple layout devoid of most of the confusing typographical tricks that seem to pass for magazine design nowadays. Like everything Time Out does, it is very professional.

Unfortunately, that is the sum of the good things I have to say about it. For me, Time Out is one long pseudos' corner, and 20/20 is more of the same — not surprisingly, I suppose, since it shares many of the same contributors. It gives the

impression of being more of a vehicle for the people who write in it than a service to the reader.

Don Aitken, the editor, said in a radio interview that he would be very pleased if his audience sat around at home reading the magazine instead of going to the things it was writing about. If that happens, eventually there won't be anything for 20/20 to write about. What it ought to be doing is stimulating people to get out of their armchairs and into the queues — in other words, to communicate a passion for the arts.

What you get instead is the kind of world-weary cynicism that disparages everything in the mainstream. That tone is set from page 10, where Julie Burchill brazenly "reviews" 15 films she has never seen. It is further typified by the

profile of Luciano Pavarotti, which dwells much more attentively on his birth than on his voice (and, in any case, I know a much better Pavarotti story than the ones printed there: he told a London audience a few years ago that his happiest moment was being bumped into by a passer-by, who excused himself by saying, "I'm sorry — I didn't see you").

Obviously an attempt is being made to be self-consciously hip, to gale "street cred", but I think it may be misplaced in this market. While Time Out may well be bought by people who read rather than go, a monthly is a more serious purchase. It is likely to be read rather than glanced through, and

the motive is presumably a desire for guidance on what is worth doing or seeing. If 20/20 fails on commitment, how does it rate on usefulness? It professes to be "not a

listings magazine but a critical guide to the coming month", but it makes life difficult for itself by allotting only two pages to the "critical guide". The highest number of events on any one day is seven (and one of those is sport), which for a magazine covering the whole country is not many. There are, admittedly, additional potted reviews in the theatre and cinema sections. There is also a page of advance booking information, but no telephone numbers are given (except Keith Prowse's, which sup-

plied the data). If these sections were expanded considerably, there would be much more value for the reader. As it is, I find it distracting and annoying that features on AIDS and sport (sport?) occupy more than twice as much space as that given to the "critical guide".

What I seem to be asking for is a national listings magazine, which 20/20 has resolutely turned its face against.

The trouble is that I do not see how it can succeed as anything else; newspapers and magazines already carry reams of arts-type features, so you have to offer the reader something different.

The argument of 20/20, I know, will be that it pulls all the strands of the arts together, which nobody else does; but I also know from experience that it is an argument

which is theoretical rather than practical.

Nearly three years ago I launched my own arts magazine, a weekly. It failed after a few issues for reasons we need not bother with here (although I can't resist saying that they were not to do with circulation). The point is that I would not do it now. The market then was not saturated with colour coverage of the arts, as it is today.

The management of 20/20, which is experienced and highly professional, does not need any advice from me, but I would like to proffer a word or two anyway: make the magazine less detached and put the reader — and what he/she wants — first. I hope it works.

© Bernard Barnett is group communications director of the About Media Vickers advertising agency.

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MEDIA & MARKETING

When great minds think alike...

Coincidence or plagiarism? Lisa O'Kelly looks at the great ideas heist and finds there is little comfort for some freelance contributors

When the Tate Gallery moved north to Liverpool last spring, much was made in advertising circles of the "innovative" commercial on Merseyside television to herald its opening.

Produced by the London agency DDB Needham, it featured a presenter who gradually turned into a Modigliani painting, then a Braque, then a series of other works by famous artists featured in the gallery's first show. The commercial seemed certain to collect a host of prizes during the ad industry's annual awards season, due to start in a couple of weeks' time.

Or it did until it was unanimously thrown out last week by the television jury of the Designers and Art Directors Association Awards (due to be announced in mid-April), for being almost identical to a television ad made 10 years ago in America for the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

While providing an illuminating insight into the high seriousness with which the ad industry views itself, the incident also highlights a perennial problem that is becoming more acute in these days of ever-increasing television air time, expanding newspapers and more new books and magazines each week than most people know what to do with.

The problem is simply that there are an awful lot of programme makers, ad agency creative directors and newspaper and magazine editors, with acres of unoccupied space to fill, in need of a constant supply of new ideas.

And if the complaints current among the freelance contributors, who provide most of their material, are anything to go by, a fair number of them are not above stooping to

what is known in legal jargon as stealing other people's "intellectual property" when bereft of their own inspirations.

As anyone who has ever had an idea for a feature article or a television series rejected only to see it appear with somebody else's credit will know, there is little or nothing you can do about it.

Authors, artists, photographers and film directors will welcome the 1988 Copyright Designs and Patents Act when it comes into force later this year. But although this affords improved protection in several areas, such as correct accreditation of work and control over the context in which it is used, it remains a basic principle of law that an idea, until it is expressed in some form, be it written, filmed or taped, cannot be protected by law. This leaves the provider of ideas open to all kinds of exploitation.

A straw poll of commissioning editors on glossy magazines, all of whom asked to remain anonymous, revealed only one who admitted to having lifted a feature idea directly from a freelance writer's list of suggestions. But when pressed, nearly all confessed that they had at some point been involved in situations, such as asking a famous journalist to write a feature based on an idea submitted by someone less well known, simply because it would make a more marketable cover line.

"It's a rotten thing to do, I know," said one. "But sometimes you're so pushed for time you're driven to it."

In advertising, too, agencies have to fend off unsubstantiated rumours about the origins of their successful campaigns — for instance, that J. Walter Thompson's television campaign for British Telecom, starring Maureen Lipman as a Jewish grandmother, was the brainchild of



Déjà vu: the underwater commercial for Speedo swimwear (top) was upstaged by the Tamerton Dry Blackthorn Cider ad (left). The gallery ad (below) was considered almost identical to another one



an unknown copywriter who showed it to the agency as part of her job application. This is, however, strenuously denied by Richard Phillips, JWT's creative director, himself Jewish with a kosher reputation for original thought. "I would rather work for a living than knowingly use someone else's idea."

As Phillips points out, it is not impossible for the same idea to occur to several different people simultaneously. It would not be unusual, say, for most of the features editors in London to think of interviewing Kenneth Branagh during the opening week of a Renaissance Theatre Company tour. But sometimes coincidences occur for reasons that are less easy to pinpoint.

The fashionable ad agency Bartle Bogle Hegarty, for example, recently had its launch plans for a spectacularly filmed underwater commercial for Speedo swimwear thwarted by rival agency WCRS

Mathews Marcantonio, which brought out its own underwater ad for Tamerton Dry Blackthorn Cider two weeks in advance.

In the event, the two ads ran side by side on television, but neither agency was ever quite sure what had given them the same idea at the same time.

Delaney Fletcher Delaney had the same experience when it produced an ad featuring George Washington on an American dollar for a company called Systems Designers in the same week that JWT used the same idea in an ad for one of its own corporate clients. Winston Fletcher, DFD chairman, says: "Jung would call it the collective sub-conscious, but such a coincidence could just as easily be sparked off by something that happened in a comedy show or a television feature which people noticed, talked about and assimilated, and then released in their work."

However, some double takes cannot be explained away by anything so innocuous. Journalist Tony

Parsons, for example, fell victim to the kind of common or garden rip-off that is becoming a regular feature of the tabloid wars when he wrote an exclusive profile of singer George Michael for *The Face*. It appeared the next day, almost word-for-word, on the front page of the *Daily Mirror* and in the paper's centre spread, without so much as a by your leave.

"I had a verbal agreement with Michael that it would not be used anywhere but *The Face*, so the *Mirror* effectively broke my word for me," Parsons says.

"Insulted" by the paper's offer of payment and a job, Parsons sued successfully for damages and breach of copyright, and settled out of court for £15,000 plus costs. "An expensive story," he remarks caustically.

But as Parsons points out, he had an experienced agent and an expensive lawyer backing him. "For your average freelancer, taking court action is simply not an option. They just have to grin and bear it."

BYLINES

Channel switch

A new era of rivalry and competition between ITV and Channel 4 began this week, with the revelation that the Home Affairs Select Committee, reconvened to examine the future funding of Channel 4, has unanimously recommended that the Government allow the channel to sell its own advertising while enjoying "safety net funding" of 14 per cent of network revenue from the Independent Television Commission, successors to the IBA.

The ITV Association, representing the network, which had lobbied strenuously against this option, delivered the opening salvo yesterday by forecasting an unprecedented ratings war between the channels. "If we are going to be competing for revenue with Channel 4, then from now on we shall be competing for ratings," warned an ITV spokesman, pointing out that the value (to both channels) of the present system of cross-promotion and cross-scheduling had been estimated at £300 million a year.

However, Channel 4's Director of Finance, David Scott, was more conciliatory. While accepting that the most important feature of the relationship with ITV was cross-promotion, he maintains that "we would hope that a way could be found for this to continue in order to protect our audience share. But it remains a difficulty, particularly because so far it has been hard to have a conversation with ITV because they wanted no change at all." Another key factor was that "the people we shall be dealing with in the future, particularly at Channel 3, could be rather different." The committee will officially announce its recommendation on April 4.

French bidding

After the breakdown of secret talks in Paris on Friday to work out an amicable take-over of the British advertising agency Boase Massimi Pollitt by their French counterparts, BDDP (run by Jean-Claude Boulet), the French agency was expected to launch a contested cash bid to shareholders of the company this week. The only other occasion there has been such a bid was the hostile takeover of J. Walter Thompson by Martin Sorrell.

— *The Outsider*, which was to have been published by Sphere and is the subject of several law suits, will revert to the author.

Briefing...

Sir David English, editor of the *Daily Mail*, is tipped to become chief executive of New Era TV, the consortium set up by Mail Newspapers and Yorkshire TV to serve BSB's Lifestyles strand when the new service is launched in the autumn. Nick Gordon, editor of the *Mail on Sunday*, *You* magazine, is leading the field to replace him as *Mail* editor... This week's redesign of the *Radio Times*, Britain's best-selling weekly magazine, separates radio and TV listings on different pages... *Good Housekeeping* is the first women's magazine to run a course with the Open University. *Living Choices*, a community education course backed by Mercantile Credit, about choosing and organizing the home, will be transmitted in four BBC2 programmes from April 22... Former junior health minister Edwina Currie will take time off from writing her controversial memoirs to open the London Book Fair on April 3 this year... Grayling Publishing, the company owned by former *TV Times* editor Peter Jackson, has launched its first magazine, *Motorway News*, sponsored jointly by the RAC and Wellcome Break, the Trusthouse Forte motorway service chain...

Paul Charman

News watch

BBC television news could be blacked out by industrial action by the middle of next month if the corporation does not accede to a 16 per cent pay claim, put jointly by the National Union of Journalists and BETA, the technicians' union. A ballot this week of NUJ members in BBC news and current affairs television is expected to vote in favour of 24-hour stoppages in support of the claim; the unions expect that the BBC plan to present them with "a fait accompli" of only 8 per cent.

Book worms

A team representing Macmillan Inc, the American publishing giant recently bought by Robert Maxwell, arrived in London this week to sign a deal for the purchase of Sphere Books, part of the Pearson Longman group. If the deal goes ahead, then the publishing rights of Tom Bower's contentious biography of the British proprietor, Maxwell

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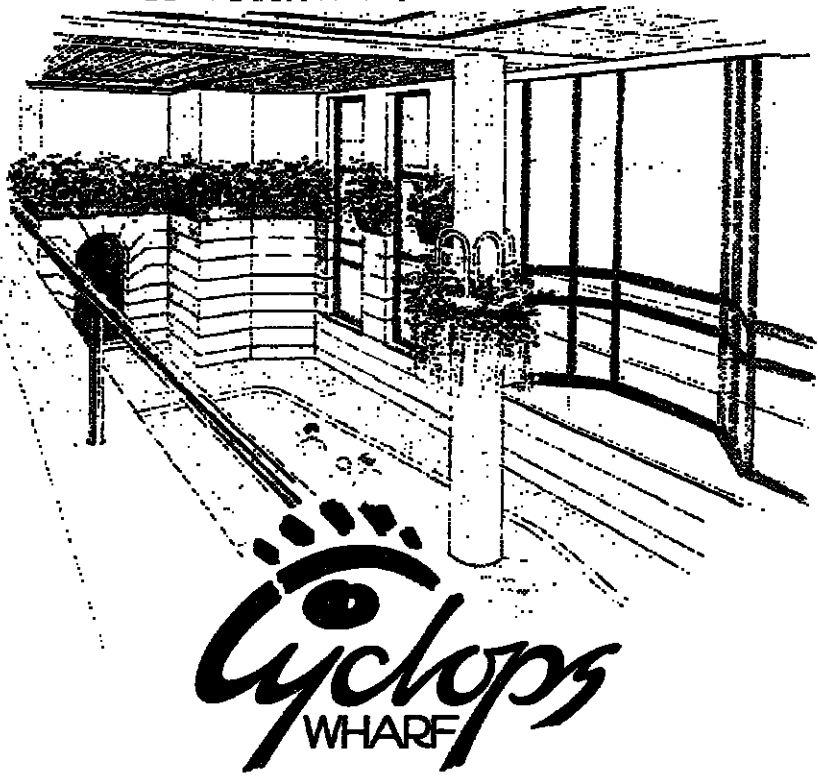
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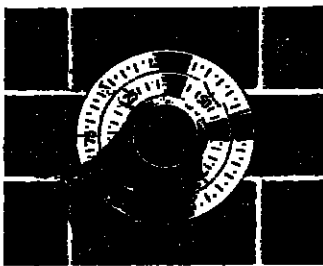
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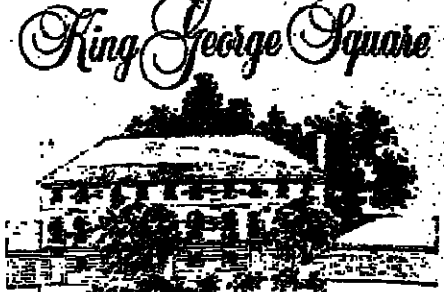
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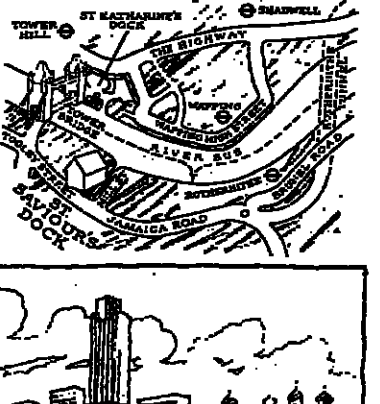
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...the fact that the *in vitro* and *in vivo* results are in good agreement, and that the *in vivo* results are in good agreement with the results obtained from the *in vitro* studies.

Robert Philip on football's life in the shadows: Stockport County

Away the blues, on with the show

To the unsuspecting Asa Hartford, Edgley Park was an intoxicating sight on the morning of June 11, 1987. Arriving for the interview that would lead to his appointment as the 24th manager of Stockport County since the war, Hartford was engulfed by blue robes.

"Do they always get crowds like this for training, or are they just pleased to see me?" Hartford mused. "It also happened to be Election Day and the ground was being used as a polling station," he said. "When the results were announced, Maggie stayed at No. 10 and I came here."

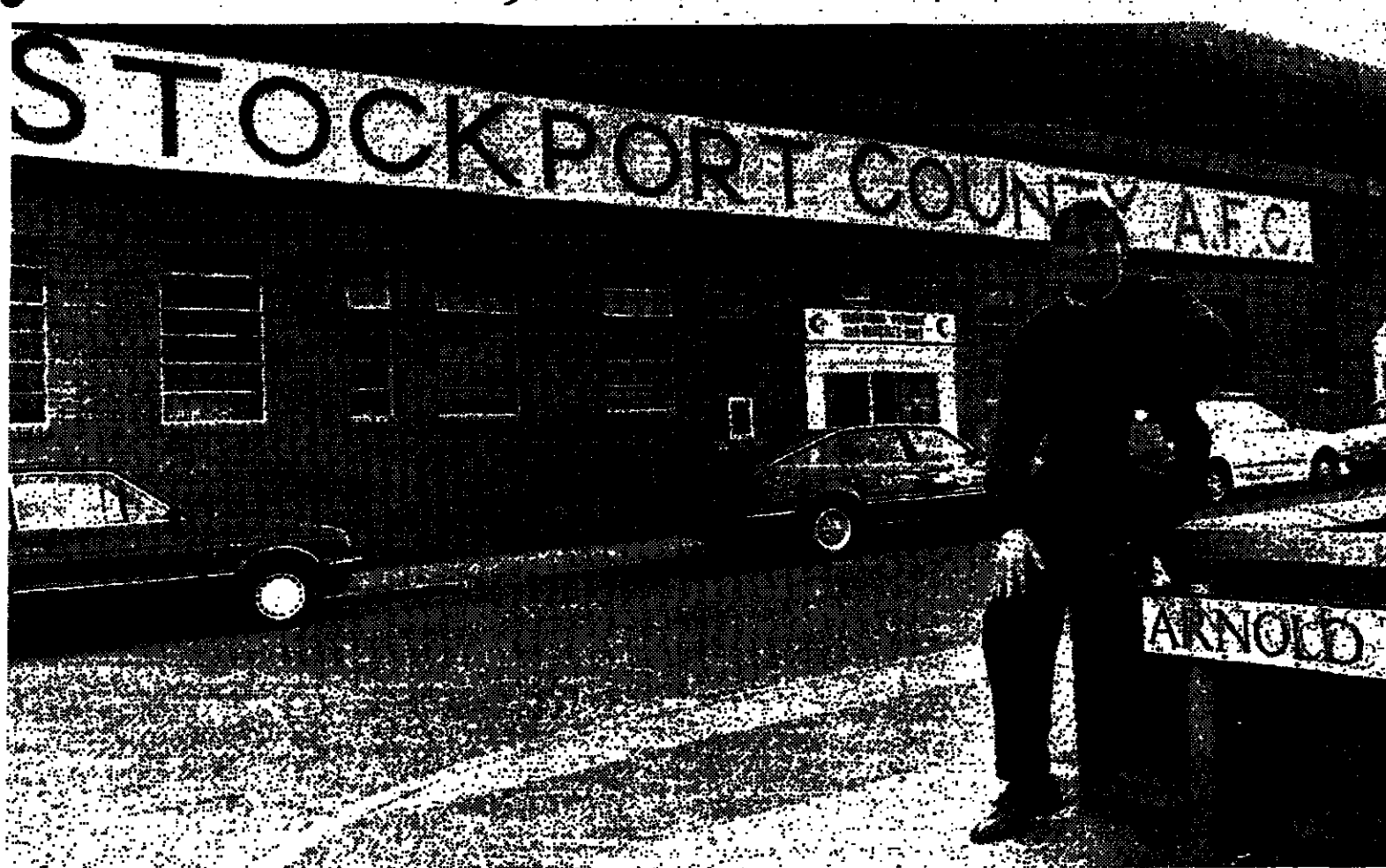
Time alone will deliver Stockport's verdict on Mrs Thatcher, but Hartford could expect to be returned with a whacking majority were he to stand again. After finishing twentieth in the fourth division in his first term of office, County have made steady gains this season and there is growing optimism that Hartford will guide them out of the bottom division for the first time in 21 years come 1990.

As crafty and combative a midfielder player as ever at 38—18 years after a hole-in-the-heart disorder threatened his career—Hartford is determined that Stockport should thrive despite their suffocating proximity to Old Trafford and Maine Road four miles away.

Apart from staging home matches on Fridays, there are two ways of attracting spectators: by playing entertaining football and by convincing the people of the town that players, manager and directors alike all want out of division four.

While it is advisable to draw a veil over much of County's 106-year history, their young manager became one of the most distinguished and popular players of his generation after an aborted £177,000 transfer from West Bromwich Albion to Don Revie's Leeds United in 1971, when doctors diagnosed the heart condition, although he was given clearance to continue playing.

One of only 11 Scots to have made 50 or more international appearances, Hartford was presented with a commemorative gold medal by the Scottish Football Association last year and his oil portrait hangs alongside those of Law,



No Easy Street: the most important thing for the Stockport County manager, Hartford, is that they all enjoy what they are doing at Edgley Park.

Dalgligh and Bremner and the rest of the exclusive clan at the SFA's headquarters in Glasgow.

Among the highlights were the World Cup finals in Argentina and Spain, an outstanding performance against Brazil in the Maracanã stadium in 1977, which drew praise from Pelé, and two triumphant visits to Wembley with Scotland.

Few would begrudge Hartford any honour and it is difficult to see how he can fail to improve the fortunes of a club which has but three claims to fame: impressionist Mike Yarwood is honorary vice-president; Alex and David Herd, who later played for Manchester United and Scotland, are the only father and son to have played in the same team; and County hold the record for the lowest ever attendance. Thirteen.

"The crowd was really 2,013, but only 13 paid to get

in," Steve Bellis, the supporters' club secretary and County historian, said. "In 1921, Stockport played some second division games at Old Trafford and were due to meet Leicester after United had played Derby. There were over 60,000 at that game, but they left at 2,000 and only 13 others actually proffered money to see Stockport."

Just occasionally, County have flirted outrageously with glory. They have twice drawn with Liverpool at Anfield in the FA Cup only to lose replays at Edgley Park and in 1978 were within four minutes of beating Manchester United at Old Trafford in the League Cup.

"We were leading 2-1 and playing them off the park," Bellis, savouring the memory of what might have been, said. "The referee awarded them two free kicks in the closing minutes—one because our goalie took too many steps,

United scored twice and County were out.

"But that's what makes it such great fun following them. In some ways it's too easy to support United or City. They're expected to win trophies and do well. Our victories are all the sweeter for being fewer and less grand."

Nestling among the old weavers' cottages now transformed into a yuppiefied Coronation Street, Edgley Park, where the average attendance from 1,200 to around 3,000, has assumed an unaccustomed vibrancy following the arrival of Hartford and the new chairman, Brendan Elwood, an Irish property developer from Sheffield.

Elwood provided the money that paid for the impressive lounges for the players and executives plus the purchase of their record £35,000 signing, Mick Matthews, from Scarborough. "Mick's a creative midfielder,

so guess whom he's been bought to replace?" the boyish-looking Hartford said.

"I know 35,000 is loose change at Old Trafford, but it's big money to clubs like Stockport. We sold Bill Williams to Manchester City last season for £50,000. They were looking for a full back and Bill's really a central defender so the move didn't work out and we bought him back for £30,000. That profit paid our wage bill for three weeks."

With a comedian for vice-president—"There are some who reckon Mike Yarwood should be manager," Hartford said—County could be described as the showbiz club of the north-west. Hartford himself was named after Al Jolson, whose first name was Asa. Jolson, Hartford's father's favourite singer, died the day before the County manager was born in 1950.

Hartford's most recent signing also sounds as though he may harbour theatrical yearnings. "His name is Tony Hancock... he's 22 and had never played professional football before he joined us. After five reserve games I named him sub and, without thinking, stuck him on with half an hour to go. He scored, and exactly the same thing happened in the next game."

"The most important thing is that everyone here enjoys what they're doing," Hartford said. "I'm often asked if I am envious of Kenny [Dalgligh] or Graeme [Souness]. No, I'm delighted for them but don't covet their jobs. The hole-in-the-heart episode taught me health is far more important than your ambitions."

"I was lucky. At a young age I learned there were a lot of people out there in a much worse position than me."

TOMORROW

Wigan Athletic

TODAY'S FIXTURES

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Bridgend v Ebbw Vale (7.15); Cardiff v Cardiff HSOR (7.15); Newport v Pontypool (7.05); Nantwich v Coventry (7.15).

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Royal Navy v Dorset and Wiltshire (US Portsmouth, 3.0); British Polytechnic v UAU (Northampton, 4.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BROTHERS CHAMPIONSHIP: Oldham v Widnes.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Carlisle v Newcastle (8.0); Newcastle v Crystal Palace (8.0); Newcastle v Crystal Palace (8.0).

BOXING: British light-heavyweight champion Tony Wroblewski (US Portsmouth, 3.0); British Polytechnic v UAU (Northampton, 4.0).

ICE HOCKEY: World junior championship: Czech Republic v Soviet Union (8.0); Czech Republic v Soviet Union (8.0).

ICE HOCKEY: Public Schools doubles championship (Queen's Club, West Kensington).

SNOKERS: Farnes Windows World Cup (Bournemouth, 8.30pm); Farnes Windows World Cup (Bournemouth, 8.30pm).

TABLE TENNIS: Commonwealth championships (Cardiff).

SPORT ON TV

BADMINTON: Eurosport 11.30am-12.30pm; Eurosport 11.30am-12.30pm.

BASKETBALL: Eurosport 8.30pm-9.30pm; Eurosport 8.30pm-9.30pm.

CRICKET: Eurosport 4.40pm-5.40pm; Eurosport 4.40pm-5.40pm.

EQUESTRIANISM: Eurosport 12.30pm-1.30pm; Eurosport 12.30pm-1.30pm.

EUROSPORT - WHAT A WEEK: Eurosport 10.30pm-11.30pm; Eurosport 10.30pm-11.30pm.

ICE HOCKEY: Eurosport 3.45pm-4.45pm; Eurosport 3.45pm-4.45pm.

ICE HOCKEY: Eurosport 3.45pm-4.45pm; Eurosport 3.45pm-4.45pm.

BOXING

Collins may just sleepwalk his way into trouble

By Srikumar Sen

Boxing Correspondent

Tony Wilson, of Wolverhampton, finds himself in the unusual position of defending his British light-heavyweight title against Tom Collins, of Leeds, at the same time being the one to face the challenge. This is because Collins, a former European and British champion, is not only a class above Wilson but he also holds a world No. 8 ranking that the British champion needs to challenge for a world title.

Despite the difference in ability, Wilson has a good chance of successfully defending his title tonight at Reading and moving up in the world. For Collins, being the president of the Ladbroke Society, is more than likely to sleepwalk through the bout, thereby handing his ranking to Wilson.

On the other hand, Collins could deliver a severe blow to Wilson's lofty ideas by knocking him out. Wilson has a suspect chin and Collins has one of the hardest right hands in Britain. He is the only British light-heavyweight to have put Dennis "The Rock" Andrews on the floor. Collins has knocked out Carlton Beards in one, Harry Cowan (and put him in hospital), Yawo Davis, John Moody, Alex Blanchard and Mark Kaylor. But he has lost no fewer than 15 of his 39 bouts. So it all very much depends on Collins's mood and Wilson will be hoping that at 33, Collins will not be too high in motivation.

Not even Collins's manager, Trevor Callaghan, knows what his man will do. But Callaghan is hoping to motivate Collins for the sake of his child. "He has a little son, Kyle, a couple of weeks old, and I shall be telling him that he will be a boxer."

Wilson's best course of action would be, like the Dutchman, Pedro van Ransdonk, who took Collins's European title off him, to keep plugging away with the jab. The sheer monotony of it should cause Collins to lose interest and fall asleep. Any attempt to try anything more fancy could lead to Collins to use the big right. It is a very good punch that is best left untested.

Rodrigues wins

Toledo, Brazil (Roster) — Adilson "Maga" Rodrigues, a world heavyweight title contender from Brazil, had a unanimous points win over the American, James "Quick" Tillis, in a 10-round bout here on Monday. Maga, coached by Angelo Dundee, and ranked among the top three contenders by both the World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association, wants to meet Mike Tyson.

Callaghan said yesterday, with not too much conviction in his voice.

Temperamentally, Wilson is exactly the opposite. He is very much the improving boxer. He has won 16 of his 17 contests and has shown courage in getting off the floor against six opponents to win. He confirmed his superiority over both his nearest rivals, Blaise Logsdon and Brian Schumacher, by inflicting two heavy defeats on each of them. He has won the Lonsdale Belt outright and is eager to challenge for the world title, even against Mike Tyson.

No doubt Wilson will be sharper than Collins, but because of the punch the Leeds man carries, the champion would do well to get involved in a rough house. Wilson's best course of action would be, like the Dutchman, Pedro van Ransdonk, who took Collins's European title off him, to keep plugging away with the jab. The sheer monotony of it should cause Collins to lose interest and fall asleep. Any attempt to try anything more fancy could lead to Collins to use the big right. It is a very good punch that is best left untested.

VOLLEYBALL

Britannia within a set of title

By Roddy Mackenzie

Britannia hauled themselves to within reach of their first Royal Bank English women's first division title by defeating Southern Scorpions in four sets at the weekend. The London club only require to take one set from Portsmouth Heatseekers in their final match on April 2 to be assured of the title, as Brighton Knights, their only remaining challengers, have now completed their league programme.

Britannia, having secured the English knockout cup the previous weekend, were made to work hard for their 15-8, 15-13, 12-15, 15-7 victory. But they have only one of their last 26 league games, a reminder of the great Hillingdon side which won the league for five successive years between 1981 and 1985.

Britannia finished their programme in convincing manner by beating Sovereign Leasing Sale, the previous champions of 1985. Liz Nicholl, the chief executive of AENA, said: "We want to be No. 1 in 1995. Winning the world championship is the only way we are really going to develop netball in this country."

The under-19 schools final 10 days ago resulted in a draw between Millfield and Goffs School, not, as stated last week, a win for the Hertfordshire team.

NETBALL

Building a strategy for future

By Louise Taylor

A new strategy for netball in the 1990s was initiated at the AENA's executive meeting last Saturday when a working party was appointed to review the association's selection and coaching policy.

Intended as a catalyst for success in the 1995 world championships, to be held in Birmingham, this six-strong "think-tank" will explore the potential for developing young netballers through six centres of excellence across the country.

Just as the Football Association hoped that the products of its national school at Lilleshall will emerge as England internationals of the 1990s, netball envisages these centres of excellence being increasingly used as nurseries for future England sides.

HOCKEY

Shaw out with broken finger

John Shaw, a skilful inside forward, has been withdrawn from the England squad because of a fractured finger (Sydney Frisken writes). Shaw is replacing the three nations' tournament in Amsterdam from March 25 to 27 by Kevin Stamp, of Wexham, who has made two appearances for England.

Shaw's finger was damaged during a warm-up on Saturday before the league cup final against Old Loughborough at White Hart Lane, but he still played a big part in Southgate's 4-2 victory.

England seniors will meet The Netherlands and India in Amsterdam.

7.30 unless stated

FA Cup

Sixth round replay

Norwich v West Ham

Barclays League

First division

Coventry v Liverpool

Newcastle v Everton

Nottingham F v Tottenham

Third division

Swansea v Huddersfield

Sherpa Van Trophy

Southern section

Semi-final

Hertford v Wolverhampton (7.45)

Scottish Cup

Fifth round

Morton v St Johnstone

B and Q Scottish League

First division

Falkirk v Ayr

Second division

Berwick v Alloa

SUPERNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Portadown v

CENTRAL LEAGUE (7.0): First division:

Barnsley v Aston Villa; Huddersfield v

Cardiff; Nottingham Forest v West

Bromwich; Second division: Bolton v

Scunthorpe; Doncaster v Stoke; Port Vale

v Notts County; York v Preston

OVERSEAS PAPERS CHAMPIONSHIP (2.0):

Crystal Palace v Norwich; Fulham v

Chelsea; Luton v Charlton; Oxford United

v Arsenal (7.30)

HPS LEAGUE LEAGUE: Premier division:

Roy v Wrexham; Mansfield v Leeds; First

division: Rotherham v Notts County; First

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ICE HOCKEY: Public Schools doubles

championship (Queen's Club, West Kensington).

Court of Appeal

Special constable entitled to race Act protection

Sheikh v Anderton Before Lord Justice O'Connor, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Balcombe (Judgment March 21)

A special constable held the office of constable and for that reason he was entitled to the protection of section 16 of the Race Relations Act 1976 which provided that a member of the police should be treated as employment.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved decision when allowing an appeal by Mr Arshad Sheikh against the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Wood, Mr S. Corby and Mr C. A. Peers) (The Times July 18, 1988) dismissing his appeal from a decision of a Manchester industrial tribunal in December 1987 that they had no jurisdiction to hear his complaint against the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester of unlawful discrimination on the ground of his race, as a special constable was not a "person employed" within the meaning of section 4(2) of the Race Relations Act 1976.

Mr Benet Hytner, QC and Mr G. H. K. Meera, for the appellant; Mr Geoffrey Tattersall for the chief constable.

LORD JUSTICE CROOM-JOHNSTON said that the industrial tribunal and the Employment Appeal Tribunal had correctly rejected the submissions that a special constable came within the terms of section 78(1) of the Race Relations Act 1976 which referred to persons under "a contract... personally to execute any work or labour". The real point in the appeal was a new one: whether a special constable was brought within the 1976 Act by section 16. That

Correction

In R v Enns (The Times March 20) the solicitors for the appellant, for the appeal only, were Whitehead & Storr.

Morale at ITV in need of a lift

By Peter Hall

Only seven months after watching League football from BBC and British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB), Greg Dyke, London Weekend Television's controller of programmes, will take the chair at this morning's meeting of the ITV network sports committee, urgently needing a change of fortune to stem the discontent in ITV sport.

There is no sign of one in the offing, unless it arises from a meeting between John Bromley, the ITV head of sport, and the EC in Brussels yesterday. Bromley asked the EC to investigate the FA contract with the BBC and BSB, which excludes ITV from broadcasting overseas matches.

Since that decision came last August, when ITV secured exclusive rights in the coverage of League football, its sports department's morale has sunk to its collective bootstraps as Dyke's policy of cutting back sports coverage in response to the network's uncertain future has begun to bite.

The satellite companies, ITV's direct competitors, are benefiting hugely in consequence. The departure of Richard Russell, ITV's athletics producer, in Eurosport two months ago, will be followed this week by the loss of three more sports producers.

Rick Walsley, the editor of *Midweek Sports Special*, John Davis, Russell's colleague in athletics, and John Watts are all joining Champion Sport, the Mark Mc Cormack subsidiary set up to run BSB's sports output.

Ground cut from beneath Bromley

With salaries rumored to be in the region of £60,000, approximately twice what ITV are paying, some departures were only to be expected, but they have been clearly made worse by uncertainty and lack of opportunities for on-air broadcasts inside the sports department in recent months. Dyke's activist approach, cutting the ground from under the much-respected Bromley, has played an important part. Two months ago, dismissing his successful recruitment of Russell, Adrian Metcalfe, in head of Eurosport, remarked: "It is bound to affect morale when people see decisions being taken over the head of their boss who is being vitally ignored."

Since then the situation has, if anything, got worse, with the fiasco of the court case over the Bruno-Tyson bout proving, in the words of one insider, "a real morale sapper".

Olympic decision a bitter blow

Clearly, some of Dyke's decisions have been unworkable, with minority sports inevitably unable to claim the audiences necessary to survive in the new competitive world ahead. The decision not to cover the 1992 Olympic Games was understandable, but was a bitter blow to the professional sportsman, and so, to a lesser extent, was the decision to leave the FA Cup final to the BBC.

Not only minority sports are suffering under the new regime, either. Earlier this month, almost inevitably, ITV did not send its commentators to Budapest for the World indoor athletics championships, even though athletics is supposedly one of the network's flagship sports.

Dyke has also commissioned a report on ITV Sport from outside the sports department, an action which has been seen as further undermining Bromley's position. One independent producer who was approached for the report suggested that the searchers would do better to ask Bromley, "who knows more about the subject than anyone else".

The report, which is expected to be completed in a month or two, has added to the unease, fueling rumors of more cuts, with sport being pushed further to the margins of ITV programming and fearing that next season will be put out to independent production companies.

Wednesday most prominent in day of hectic dealing

Rethink over Wembley likely

By Stuart Jones Football Correspondent

With the transfer deadline imminent, the markets were busy and Yorkshire clubs dominated the day's trading with a total spending of £1.8 million.

The closest race was for the signature of Gordon Strachan, Manchester United's Scottish international, and it may well be won by Sheffield Wednesday, whose manager, Ron Atkinson, had earlier in the day sold Mark Proctor, the midfielder player, to Middlesbrough, where he started his career for £300,000. Atkinson agreed a similar fee and personal terms with Strachan, who he signed on United's behalf from Aberdeen 4½ years ago.

"I took him to Old Trafford and he never let me down," Atkinson said of Strachan, aged 32. The Wednesday manager still has money, if not time, available to strengthen his side after balancing his books while signing his third player in five weeks.

Strachan also had brief talks with Bruce Riech, of Middlesbrough, and Howard Wilkinson, of Leeds United, both of whom were also active. Riech failed to secure Queen's Park Rangers, and Wilkinson, who last week sold Adams to Southampton for £225,000 parted with Swan, another defender, to Hull City for £200,000.

The Humber club were also heavily involved in dealings. As well as Swan who commanded a club record fee, Hull sold Palmer, the full-

back, to Notts County for £25,000 and Saville, the forward, to Walsall for £100,000 and bought McParland as a replacement from Notts County for £155,000.

The prudent Wilkinson, Atkinson's predecessor at Hillsborough, will not, however, be panicked into spending to improve his side's slender chances of reaching a play-off position. "When you find players available they are invariably over-valued," he said. "Only if you are very rich and very stupid do you pursue a player beyond his value."

More activity, though less hectic, is expected in the last hours before tomorrow's deadline. Bradford City are

quickly if he is to re-sign McAvennie before the deadline tomorrow.

Paul Sweeney, aged 24, a midfielder player from Raith Rovers, completed his transfer to Newcastle United in a deal which could eventually be worth £150,000 to the Scottish club. But the signing came too late for Sweeney to be included in the Newcastle squad for tonight's home match with Everton.

Wolverhampton, the third division leaders, signed their third goalkeeper in a fortnight when they took Roger Hunsbury on a month's loan from Birmingham City.

City while Manchester City have signed Paul Cooper from Leicester City for £20,000 as cover for first choice goalkeeper, Andy Dibble.

Much further south, the Portsmouth manager, John Gregory, has agreed to sell his Welsh international midfielder player, Barry Horne, to Southampton for £700,000 and has lined up Tottenham's John Moncur as replacement.

Southampton-based Horne, aged 26, travelled to the Dell to discuss the transfer and could make his debut on Saturday against Arsenal.

Moncur was expected to join Portsmouth on loan with a view to a permanent move at an agreed £150,000 fee. The Birmingham winger, Steve Wigley, has pulled out of a £300,000 transfer to Frant Park because he wants to join a club in the first division or at least with a chance of promotion.

No arrests were made last August during the two days which cost PRO "some money". But the event was successful enough to persuade the Italian and West German representatives to accept a second invitation and for Arsenal and Liverpool to re-adjust their preparations for next season to be able to compete.

The four clubs are now awaiting developments. They are unlikely to be forthcoming until March 30 when the FA's executive committee is expected to reconsider the position. Roach has asked for clarification of the withdrawal of permission and also for a personal hearing at the meeting.

"Otherwise, they will presumably chuck it out again for the same reason, whatever that might be," he added. "The matter will not be closed if the FA's response remains negative. We will take it all the way," he said. "If that means legal action, then so be it."

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